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MAGAZINE



Tory charges rejected, Times told

Simon breaks silence on shares row

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

LORD Simon of Highbury, the minister at the centre of the BP shares row, today fights back against his Tory critics, rejecting their "charges and innuendoes" that he is guilty of a conflict of interest in keeping his £2 million holding.

The Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, and former chairman of BP, breaks his silence on the affair to warn that the furor stirred up by the Conservatives might make other businessmen wary of becoming involved in government.

He describes claims against him by Tory spokesmen as without foundation, untrue and absurd.

And in an astonishing sideswipe at the Tory leadership he says that the conclusion of the arguments advanced by "what was once the party of business" was that all businessmen entering government were inevitably subject to conflict of interests and should be barred.

"That would be a shame for politics. It would be a shame for Britain," he writes in *The Times*. He voices shock that the criticism should have come not from old Labour but "an apparent champion of the free market", John Redwood.

However, he makes plain that he has no intention of standing down. "I have a thick skin and will not be deflected from the challenge of helping Britain win in Europe."

Lord Simon delivers a detailed defence of the charges



Simon: "I have thick skin and will not be deflected"

made against him by the Tories, disclosing that he had decided against selling BP shares because he judged it would have been in breach of insider dealing legislation.

As chairman of BP he had considerable insider knowledge. The day he entered the new office he took advice from Sir Michael Scholar, the Permanent Secretary at the DTI.

He was advised to put his non-BP shares into a blind trust, which he had done. That was not appropriate for his BP shares. "It was therefore decided that I should keep my BP shares until the situation is reviewed in January next year, when a further assessment of my access to insider knowledge can be made. During this period none of my BP shares will be traded. In the meantime steps have been taken to ensure that I do not allow any conflict of interest between my BP shareholding and my official business."

Lord Simon does not say why it was inappropriate for his BP shares to go into a blind trust. Last night Whitehall sources said it was thought possible that insider trading legislation would still apply if the trustees dealt in Lord Simon's shares because he would have had privileged knowledge at the time that he put them into the trust.

The minister's fightback comes after the Prime Minister yesterday published a new code of conduct for ministers with stricter rules on financial interests.

The rules also confirmed the massive centralisation of power in Downing Street that has occurred since Labour returned to power. In future ministers will have to get clearance from the Downing Street press office before they give major interviews to either newspapers or broadcasters or make media appearances. They will also have to clear the policy content of all major speeches, press releases, and policy initiatives with the No 10 private office, while the timing and form of announcements will have to be cleared with the press office.

Lord Simon describes as "absurd and totally without foundation" charges that he still takes decisions that relate to BP. "No BP-specific matters come before me. In all the flurry of political invective Confirmed on page 2, col 1

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Robert Ballard announcing his discovery, with some of the artefacts in front

Titanic explorer finds graveyard of treasures

BY TOM RHODES AND NICK NUTTALL

THE explorer who found the wreck of the *Titanic* has used an underwater robot and a once-secret nuclear submarine to prowl the depths of the Mediterranean, discovering the greatest concentration of ancient shipwrecks.

Robert Ballard, whose detection of the ocean liner and the German battleship *Bismarck* have earned him a reputation as the Indiana Jones of underwater exploration, was joined by two British archaeologists in his latest venture, a project that will make recoverable almost every object ever sunk.

During a six-week expedition in May to the Mediterranean trading route that linked ancient Rome with Carthage, Mr Ballard and his team of researchers found eight ships and thousands of pristine artefacts spanning more than 2,000 years. The area northwest of Sicily endures unpredictable storms and violent seas and is described as being similar to the infamous Bermuda Triangle, the site of numerous wrecks and lost vessels.

Until now, no big shipwreck has been discovered below 200 feet. But the modern technology employed by the Ballard expedition can extend to depths of 20,000ft, enough to reach 98 per cent of all ocean floors. "I'm convinced that the deep sea holds a vast amount of human history, more than is held in all of the museums of the world," Mr Ballard told the National Geographic Society in Washington.

Among those who took part in the exploration were Jonathan Adams of the Centre for Marine Archaeology at the University of Southampton.

and Cathy Giangrande, a conservationist at University College London. Equipped with NR-1, a US Navy nuclear submarine, *Carolyn Chouest*, a support ship, and *Jason*, an unmanned submersible vessel, the team found five Roman ships from 200 BC to AD 400, an Islamic fishing vessel from the 17th or 18th century and two ships from the 19th century.

The oldest craft, 100ft long and carrying two lead anchors, was one of the earliest Roman wrecks found. Her holds were filled with fine bronze vessels and at least eight different types of amphorae, the clay containers used to transport wine, olive oil, fish sauce and preserved fruit.

Another Roman galley carried a cargo of granite building stones and monolithic columns apparently ready for assembly into a temple. Mr Ballard, of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Mills in fight for credibility after third court attack

BY RICHARD FORD AND FRANCES GIBB

DAME Barbara Mills was fighting last night to restore her credibility as Director of Public Prosecutions as the Government further reduced her independence after the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was castigated in the courts for the third time in a week.

Lord Justice Rose, the second most senior criminal judge, accused the CPS of repeatedly taking "a flawed approach" in its decision not to prosecute four former members of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad.

The ruling deepened the crisis surrounding the operation of the CPS and within hours Dame Barbara held a meeting with one of the Government's Law Officers where it was agreed to extend the terms of reference of the enquiry into two "deaths in police custody" cases to cover the Derek Treadaway case.

Yesterday's judgment – which prompted immediate speculation about the DPP's future – coincides with the disclosure that the senior judiciary has delivered a damning indictment of the CPS's performance to Sir Ian Glidewell, the former Court of Appeal judge, conducting the Government review into the service.

A letter drafted on behalf of the judiciary by Lord Justice Auld is believed to conclude that the CPS is struggling to cope and that the delivery of the service on the ground is badly failing.

The critique, based on soundings from the 500-strong circuit bench and from High Court judges, will be a further blow to Dame Barbara.

Yesterday Lord Justice Auld declined to discuss the contents of the letter. But some judges have made no secret of their views that the CPS is blighted by constant delays.

caused by inadequate resources and a shortage of senior staff to take the relevant decisions.

Earlier in the High Court, Lord Justice Rose had delivered a stinging judgment in the latest challenge to a CPS decision not to bring a prosecution against police officers.

Derek Treadaway, who spent 13 years in jail before his conviction for robbery and conspiracy to rob was quashed, said at his trial that his "confession" was extracted from him by oppression and violence.

Lord Justice Rose said DPP decisions not to prosecute the officers in his case were perverse and flawed by a failure to give reasons. He accused Dame Barbara's department of not giving the "careful analysis" required to the ruling of a High Court judge who awarded Mr Treadaway, an armed robber, £50,000 compensation.

Lord Justice Rose said the CPS had breached its own test on whether there was enough evidence to prosecute the officers who allegedly tortured Mr Treadaway at Bromford Lane police station in Birmingham.

Although Dame Barbara took no part in the decisions on Mr Treadaway, yesterday's ruling further undermines her reputation and also that of the CPS.

It follows two cases last week in which she agreed to reconsider decisions not to prosecute police officers involved in incidents in which people had died in custody.

A spokeswoman for Dame Barbara said she had not been involved in the decision concerning Mr Treadaway and that she could not look at everyone of the 11,000 decisions a year taken by the CPS's central London division.

British fishermen angry over ruling

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

SPANISH trawler owners are entitled to claim compensation for the multimillion-pound losses they claim they suffered while illegally excluded from British fishing waters, the High Court ruled yesterday.

British trawlers, who say the Spanish are being rewarded for sealing British fish, responded angrily to the judgement, which could cost taxpayers more than £50 million in damages.

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Legal move on Aids infection

The Government is considering making it an offence intentionally to infect another person with a disease, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said in a Commons written answer.

The announcement came on the day that Paul Georgiou was jailed by a Cypriot court for 15 months for knowingly infecting his British lover Janette Pink with the Aids virus.

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Ninety-seven Spanish owners and managers of 107 vessels estimate that each of their boats lost between £50,000 and £500,000 by being prevented from trawling in UK waters. Each of the applicants will now have to submit an individual claim to a judge or an official referee and show that the damage was in fact caused, a procedure likely to take many months.

Lord Falconer, the Solicitor-General, told the court that the Government was considering an appeal against the judgement.

Linford Christie condemned a decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation to reduce bans on athletes found guilty of drug taking from four to two years. He said it would only increase drug-taking.

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Leftwinger laughing through his teeth

This newspaper can categorically refuse rumours, right at Westminster, that Ronnie Campbell's teeth came out during his question on beer to industry ministers yesterday afternoon. It just looked like that.

In fact the Labour member for Blyth Valley was making a little joke. This likeable Geordie and former French publisher, described in Roth's *Parliamentary Profiles* as "unsophisticated, extrovert, fundamentalist, left-wing local councillor-miner", is quoted as saying, "I am a radical and a fighter; just an ordinary leftwinger". A one-time supporter of Arthur Scargill, Campbell is pictured with "chubby face, reddened

when he shouts (often)". But none of this quite does justice to a noisy but good-natured and funny man, who lacks the sourness often associated with the Left.

The humour came through yesterday. His question answered — what action was Margaret Beckett taking "to ensure that bar-drinkers receive full £1.10 pints in public houses?" — he put a supplementary. New Labour, he told Madam Speaker, was, of course, "not against profit". But Campbell is about as new Labour as beer and skittles. He paused, then stuck his considerable fist into his even more considerable mouth.

That is what gave reporters the idea that Mr Campbell's teeth had come out, a rumour that fast gained currency and was by sundown being recounted as fact.

But his teeth stayed in. Had he lost them he would not have been the first. Years ago, Anthony Beaumont-Dark, at that time the Tory MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, and now much missed at Westminster, was in mid-oration when — during a particularly emphatic denunciation of the Labour Party — his flying teeth left his words an emphasis even Sir Anthony had not intended. With amazing skill (perhaps born of long

practice?) the senior backbencher caught the teeth before they hit the carpet.

The near-disaster was captured on video and replayed in slow motion (with a white circle around the teeth) on *A Week in Politics*, which received a stiff complaint from the Commons authorities for misusing parliamentary video footage. The service is not for use in undermining the dignity of honourable members. Heaven forbid that this sketch should try to do that! So, as the Commons rises for a near three-month summer

recess, it is with affectionate respect that we bring you a final update on the amazing Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes. This sketch, announcing that "a bore is born", noticed some time ago what a broad range of domestic and world affairs

Mr Baker held opinions on, and how often he offered them in the Chamber.

I was acting on a hunch, after Baker's energetic 24 interventions during the Plant Varieties Bill. Political science can now back hunch with evidence. Research shows that in the 55 days for which this new Parliament has sat, Mr Lewis has put down exactly 300 questions, 284 of which have received a written answer, 16 having

been answered on the floor of the House.

The official estimate for the cost to the public purse of answering a written question is £107. Oral questions are a snap at £249 each. A written answer yesterday from the Prime Minister to Jim Cunningham (Lab, Coventry S) suggests that the cost of Mr Baker, so far — exclusive of salary and expenses — is £30,000. That is conservative. Some of Baker's questions have been missed, and the figure rounded down.

We wish Mr Baker a happy holiday and — may we dare hope? — a little rest. For the next session we award him an ancient post in our unwritten constitution: Gold Anorak-in-Waiting.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britons back Labour on economic policy

Gordon Brown's Budget and the Government's economic policy have received overwhelming endorsement from the public in the latest MORI poll for *The Times* (Peter Riddell writes). More people believe the Budget will be good for the country as a whole than after any previous Budget for 20 years.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, indicates that 56 per cent think the Budget will be good for the country as a whole, and 20 per cent think it will be bad. However, 29 per cent think it will be good for them personally, while 37 per cent think it will be bad. A record 57 per cent think that, in the long term, this Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy, while 24 per cent disagree.

Rail dispute on guards

The rail union RMT is to ballot 6,000 members at 20 train companies over industrial action in a dispute to protect the operating and safety roles of guards. Its general secretary, Jimmy Knapp, said that the Great Eastern Railway had managed to reduce the job to a few hours' training with its controversial plan to recruit "commuters" as part-time guards and that many firms had failed to give the level of assurance that the union was seeking.

Aberfan fund repaid

The Government agreed to repay £150,000 taken from the Aberfan Disaster Fund 30 years ago. The Wilson Government decided that the fund, set up after a waste tip at the Merthyr Vale Colliery collapsed, killing 116 children and 28 adults in 1966, should pay for removing the two remaining tips. Villagers have long campaigned for the return of the money, which was announced in a Commons written reply from Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary.

Inquest challenge fails

A High Court appeal to reopen the inquest into the death of the British burglar suspect Wayne Douglas failed yesterday. His family challenged the directions to the jury of Sir Montague Levine, the South London Coroner, after which a verdict of accidental death was returned. Mr Justice Laws ruled that, although Sir Montague, who has since retired, had not properly directed the jury, it would still have reached the same verdict.

Tests for drug-drivers

The first survey of drug-driving in Britain is to be launched today by Strathclyde Police to find ways of improving roadside detection. Drivers will be stopped and asked questions and to perform writing, physical and memory exercises. No charges will be pressed. The survey is part of a programme involving two Strathclyde officers who were awarded £7,700 from the Home Office for research into improving training on drug-symptom recognition.

£300,000 libel award

A former Irish Minister was awarded £300,000 yesterday in a libel case against the *Sunday Independent*. It is the largest libel award ever granted in Ireland. The jury found that in 1992, Eamon De Rosia, a columnist, had accused Provisional IRA member of involvement in or toleration of serious crime. They also found that he had alleged that Mr De Rosia supported anti-Semitism and violent communist oppression.

Footballer on sex charge

The Bradford City footballer Peter Beagrie appeared before magistrates on Jersey yesterday charged with three offences of indecent assault, allegedly committed while he was a Manchester City player. The 31-year-old winger also faced charges of common assault and of being disorderly. Mr Beagrie denied all the charges, which are alleged to have happened in the early hours of February 25 in two bars on the island. The trial continues.

Deposit safe from pygmy

Speculation that the body of a pygmy was the cause of an unpleasant smell emanating from a bank safe deposit box was scotched yesterday. Staff at the NatWest branch in the City of London noticed the smell after a flood in May. However, a spokesman said they had been in touch with the owner who had assured them "there is no kind of dead body down there". She declined to disclose the identity of the owner, or the contents of the box.

Road protesters lose

Anti-road campaigners have failed in their final attempt at the Court of Appeal to stop the "missing link" in the Avon ring road being built. The case has cost the taxpayers tens of thousands of pounds. Andrew Nicolson and Barry McNeely, who received legal aid, claimed that the multimillion-pound project would cost more in human and economic terms than it would bring in benefits to the people of Bristol.

R-reg car rush begins

New cars will leave showrooms at the rate of 30 a minute today as the motor industry cashes in on what could be its last August sales bonanza. The Government is expected within weeks to end the system which changes the prefix letter on number plates and opt for a twice-yearly change, in March and September. Sales of R-registration cars this month could reach 496,000, the second highest monthly total on record.

Leading article, page 17

Blair sets tough code of conduct for ministers

Downing Street has tightened its control of Government in an effort to avoid "sleaze", reports Valerie Elliott

TONY BLAIR yesterday published a tougher "catch-all" code of conduct for ministers in an effort to clean up politics, restore public trust and enshrine the primacy of No 10.

The iron grip that Mr Blair is wielding in Whitehall is confirmed officially in the guidance, which sets out strict rules on financial interests to avoid "sleaze".

Downing Street must approve all speeches, press releases and new initiatives, and their timing and presentation. Also, every interview and media appearance must be agreed on by the No 10 press office.

Ministers may even have to write up the conversation of their lunches with journalists as every department has been instructed to keep a log of all media contacts. Mr Blair has also insisted on approving which duties are assigned to junior ministers.

The Prime Minister has made clear that any minister

who misleads Parliament must resign. In a foreword to the guidelines, last published in 1992, Mr Blair says: "In issuing this code, I should like to reaffirm my strong personal commitment to restoring the bond of trust between the British people and their Government. We are all here to serve and we must all serve honestly and in the interests of those who gave us our positions of trust."

Among other "dos and don'ts", ministers must not personally benefit from Air Miles accumulated in connection with official travel. However, the benefits may be used for official purposes or a minister may donate them to a charity named by the airline.

Ministers can now keep gifts up to the value of £140 — up from the previous maximum of £25 in line with inflation — but must inform their department's Permanent Secretary. Otherwise, no minister or civil servant, or mem-

ber of their family, can receive gifts, hospitality or services that may place them under an obligation.

No minister may sue for libel or launch any other legal action without first consulting the Government's law officers.

The code was implemented from the first day of the Labour Government, and Downing Street sources last night said that it would change nothing in relation to any minister, including Lord Simon of Highbury who has attracted controversy over his BP shareholding.

The code states implacably that ministers "must scrupulously avoid any danger of an actual or apparent conflict of interest between their ministerial position and their private financial interest".

In cases where ministers are brought into Government from industry, a profession or some other walk of life, the code says: "In order to avoid the danger of an actual or perceived conflict of interest, ministers should be guided in relation to their financial interest by the general principle that they should dispose of any financial interest giving rise to the actual or perceived conflict or take steps to prevent it."

The code suggests ministers may take advice from their Permanent Secretary over "actual or perceived conflict" of interest, but adds: "It is in the end for ministers to judge (subject to the Prime Minister's decision in cases of doubt) what action they need to take."

The code makes explicit that ministers and their staff are expected to preserve the privacy of Cabinet business, including opinions expressed in Cabinet and ministerial committees and documents.

Parliamentary private secretaries, MPs on the first rung of the ladder who act as the eyes and ears of ministers, are instructed for the first time to ensure that they have no conflict of interests.

A Downing Street spokesman last night conceded that the code would make life harder for ministers, but denied that it represented stronger central control: "It is the central, strategic discipline we operate in Opposition as translated to the Government. There must be proper strategic co-ordination of the Government's key mechanisms."

Continued from page 1 over the last few days nobody has ever suggested that I have taken any decision which specifically benefited BP.

The Times also learnt last night that the minister will receive a further tranche of BP shares in the Jersey offshore trust. The payout next year could exceed £300,000.

Mr Redwood accused the minister of missing a golden opportunity to sell the shares the day he assumed office, which was 48 hours after the company published its last quarterly figures. He said a further opportunity would be offered next week when the latest figures were listed.

Mr Redwood said: "I am surprised by the suggestion that there could be a problem with insider dealing. It is normal practice for directors and former directors to sell immediately after results are posted. Lord Simon should have sold on May 8, the day he took up his post, exactly two days after the figures were announced. It would have avoided the suggestion of a conflict of interest."

He repeated his demand that Lord Simon should dispose of the shares, surrender his rights over the Jersey trust, or stand down as a minister. "They have to go," he said.

Leading article, page 17



Mother wins battle to decide baby's surname

BY ENNIA WILKINS

A WOMAN yesterday won the right to give her illegitimate child her own surname despite the objections of the father.

The Court of Appeal ruled in favour of Dawn Wearmouth, who registered her baby as Alexander Wearmouth and rejected the plea by her former boyfriend, Mark Dawson, that the child should bear his name. The ruling overturned a decision by Taunton County Court that it was Alexander's "best interest" to bear his father's name.

Mrs Wearmouth, 35, from Taunton, Somerset, kept her married name after she divorced in 1993. Her relationship with Mr Dawson ended in April last year when Alexander, now aged 16 months, was less than a month old.

Mr Dawson argued that, although Alexander lived with his mother, he should take his name rather than that of a man to whom he was not related.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Thorpe said using the mother's name was a natural and logical choice which could not be criticised simply

because their fathers wanted Catriona Duthie, for Mr Dawson, had argued that "common sense" dictated that the surname of a child should be determined by its relationship with the biological father and not the mother's ex-husband.

Mrs Wearmouth said after the judgement: "I am extremely pleased with the outcome. I am delighted that there has been a result after 15 months of going to court, which has been very stressful."

Both Mark Dawson and I can now concentrate on the primary concern which we both have which is the welfare of our child. His name is important but it is by no means the most important part of his life. All he is thinking about is his precious family name."

Mr Dawson, 34, a quality control manager, said he might take his legal battle to the House of Lords. "I am upset and extremely disappointed by the decision. Alex would have been the only child to carry my family name into the next generation. I am an only son and I come from a long line of only sons. My parents are very disappointed. We take a great deal of pride in the family."

Leading article, page 17

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Leading article, page 17

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Hi-tech method enabled team to pinpoint hidden wrecks

Nick Nuttall and Tom Rhodes on a revolutionary approach to underwater exploration in Mediterranean

THE British marine archaeologist Jonathan Adams said yesterday that the discoveries in the Mediterranean outlined by Robert Ballard represented the second great leap forward in the field.

"We have not seen this since the early days of scuba diving in the late 1950s when hundreds of wrecks were found in shallow waters in the Mediterranean."

Mr Adams, from the Centre for Marine Archaeology at the University of Southampton, said the difference between the wrecks discovered by the Ballard team in June and the shallow-water wrecks found over 40 years ago was the condition.

"The shallow-water ones are often broken up by currents and human interference, but these have not been interfered with by any natural or human agency since the day they went down," Mr Adams said.

"For example we can see how the ships are laid out."

The greater the depths, according to experts, the better

the preservation of discovered artefacts. Although wooden decks, rigging and upper hulls of the five Roman ships which were found had been destroyed, the timbers buried in the mud were well preserved and the cargoes appeared almost undisturbed.

Mr Adams said he had been astonished at the dexterity of the remotely operated submersible, Jason, which had been demonstrated around the Islamic merchant ship.

"Around that were some rather nice ceramics including extremely fragile glass artefacts which look like little mosque lamps."

"Jason was able to pick these up without breaking them. I could not believe it. I would not have trusted a diver to pick them up by hand let alone a robot," the researcher said.

He said yesterday that the academic community had "thrown down the gauntlet to the treasure hunters". Until now most deep-water excavations have been carried out by

private treasure hunters who, in many cases, have plundered wrecks and ruined their historical interest.

"The treasure hunters, whose interests are completely different from ours, have stated time and again that they are the only people who can deal with these deep water sites which are often in international waters and beyond national governments' control."

The treasure hunters have said only that they have the expertise and the money," the researcher, who 20 years ago worked on the excavation and recovery of Henry VIII's flagship, the Mary Rose, said.

"But we have demonstrated that this is not true. We had four archaeologists, two conservators and six computer scientists and engineers. We have shown that the academic community can do this and can do it bigger and better than the hunters," he added.

He said that instead of priceless artefacts going to the highest bidder, often a private collector, the ones found by the team were destined for a "publicly accessible collection".

The latest finds come after a spate of underwater exploration, which has revealed Blackbeard's ship off North Carolina, Benedict Arnold's gunboats in Lake Champlain and the I-52, a still unrecovered Japanese cargo submarine which sank in the South Atlantic while carrying \$21 million to Hitler's Third Reich late in the Second World War.

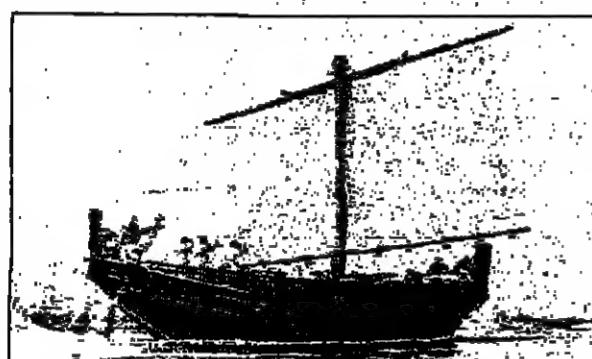
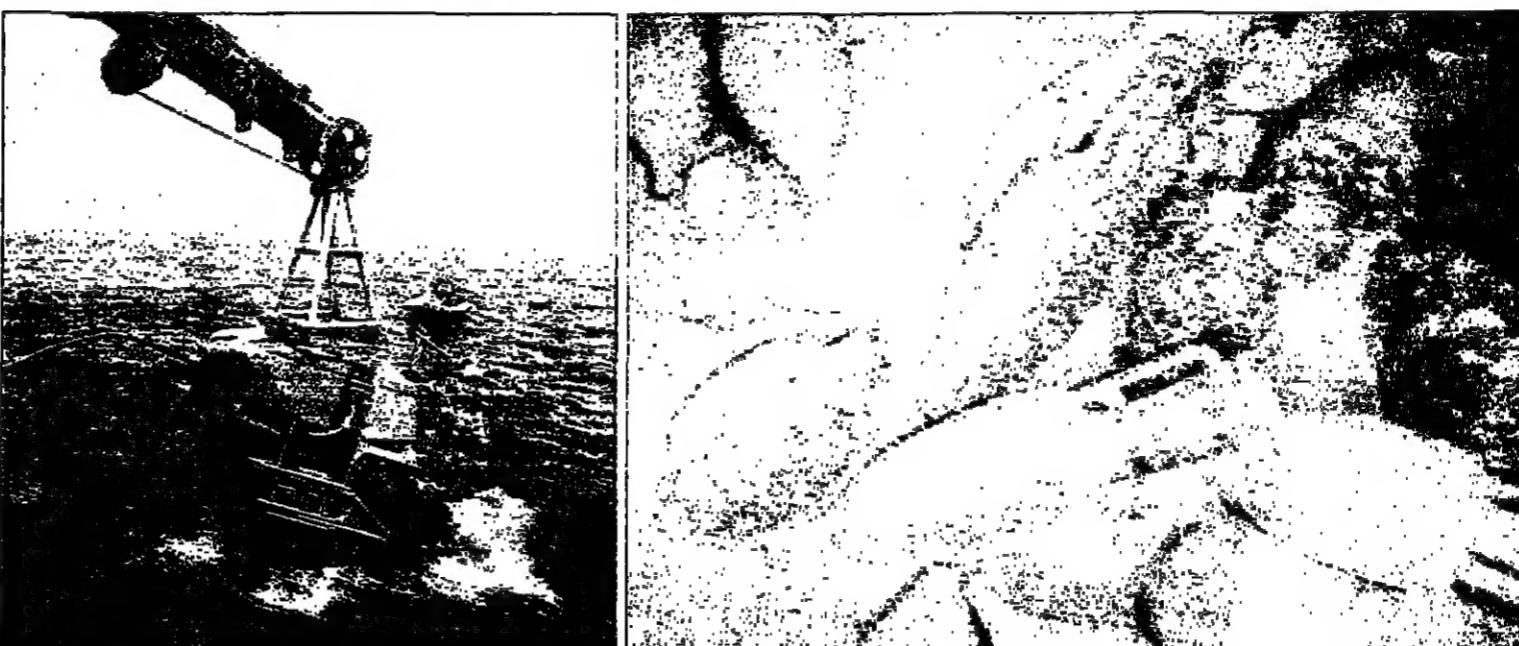
Since the end of the Cold War, previously secret submarine technology has emerged for civilian use. Once classified satellite global positioning systems, computer-enhanced sonar imagery and improved fibre-optic cables, have all been made available to explorers of the deep.

With every new method at his disposal, Mr Ballard says he is now heading for the Black Sea before a trip to the Pacific graveyard of the Battle of Midway, the turning point of the Second World War.

La Belle was captained by Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, the aristocrat who claimed Louisiana for



Robert Ballard directs the movements of Jason, the submersible robot which found the ancient shipwrecks. Jonathan Adams is seen with his hands on his chin. Below, Jason being lowered into the ocean, and some of the 2,000-year-old jugs it found from a former trading ship



A Phoenician trading vessel. The team's finds were on a major trading route from Rome to Carthage



Talented dancer, 10, drowns on school trip

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A TEN-YEAR-OLD girl died yesterday after getting into difficulties while swimming on a school trip to the North Welsh coast. Laura Zielinski, from Tividale, in the West Midlands, was bathing with school friends in choppy water off Shell Island, in Caernarfonshire and Merionethshire, North Wales. A teacher pulled her unconscious from the sea and she was given artificial respiration on the beach. Attempts to resuscitate her continued as she was airlifted by RAF helicopter to Bangor Hospital. Paediatricians made a final attempt to save her life after she was transferred overnight to the intensive care unit at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool. Her

parents, Lynne and Patrick Zielinski, were at the bedside when the child's life support machine was switched off.

Laura was one of 34 children on the holiday activity trip from Christchurch junior school in Oldbury, West Midlands. The children had been in North Wales since Sunday.

Mr Zielinski, 42, said last night that her daughter, who was talented at Latin American ballroom dancing, telephoned home on Monday night full of excitement about her day on the beach and in the water. She said: "She was so beautiful, so talented. She died in my arms as I was cradling her. She wanted to be a dancer when she grew up. She danced for England at the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool at Easter. It was the British Open, which

is the entry competition to the world championships and she was in the top 24 in the world."

Bill Thomas, chairman of education at Sandwell Borough Council, said he was satisfied that the swimming party was being properly supervised. He said there were seven staff members from the primary school, including Dave Derricot, the head teacher, looking after the children.

Mr Thomas said: "We are very distressed by the incident. From our initial inquiries we are satisfied that the swimming session was properly staffed and supervised. Mr Derricot is extremely experienced in taking parties of young people away and has been organising this type of trip for years. He will be very, very upset."

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Free care for elderly with £10,000 savings

LOCAL authorities must pay for all the costs of elderly people in their care whose capital has fallen below £10,000, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, ruled yesterday. The decision was a victory for the charities Help the Aged and Age Concern which brought a test case to the Court of Appeal.

The court heard that Sefton Council on Merseyside had made 87-year-old woman Charlotte Blanchard pay for her own nursing home care until her savings dropped below £1,500 – the cost of a funeral. Lord Woolf and two other appeal judges overturned a

Joanna Bale on a test-case ruling against a council which said it could not afford help for a woman of 87

High Court decision which had allowed the authority to avoid paying for residential or nursing care for the elderly because of its limited resources.

Tessa Harding, a spokeswoman for Help the Aged, said: "This is a huge victory for older people throughout the country. Help the Aged believes it makes local authorities' responsibilities crystal clear and will stop other councils being tempted to follow Sefton."

The decision has implications for

the 170,000 elderly in council-run homes throughout the country. A spokesman for Age Concern said that there were 60 similar cases in Sefton alone.

The council will now repay Mrs Blanchard the £3,500 she had spent on her care from her own savings. Last night at Warren Park nursing Home in Crosby, she said: "There should be something to help you when your money is getting low, otherwise what have you got? Nothing. I am pleased about the

ruling because it will help everybody who is in the same position as I am."

Lord Woolf, in his ruling, said that both sides in the action acknowledged it was a test case "of considerable significance for both elderly members of the community and local authorities". In the November Budget of 1995, the Government announced that when individuals' capital fell below £10,000, local authorities were legally obliged to step in and pay

for a person's care in a residential or nursing home. When capital was between £10,000 and £6,000, the authority paid part of the care.

Sandra Chalmers of Help the Aged, said: "What Mrs Blanchard has achieved is that thousands of others in residential or nursing homes and in a similar position to hers will not have to make payments. If their assets fall below £10,000, they will only have to pay a proportion of the cost of their care, and if they fall below £6,000

they will not have to pay anything. It is a very reassuring judgment for those going into care. People will have the reassurance that they will be able to hang on to the last £10,000 of their savings."

Sally Green gross, director of Age Concern, welcomed the decision but said there were still problems that needed facing: "This judgment will offer some reassurance to families where local authorities were considering using Sefton to refuse payment for people in nurs-

ing homes. But there are still outstanding problems. cash-strapped local authorities could still find other ways of rationing."

"This judgment does nothing for people waiting to go into care from their own homes or hospitals. The Government must face up to the nation's responsibility to ensure that its citizens receive the care that they need at the end of their lives." Help the Aged is calling for an urgent Government review of community care funding to stop elderly people being forced to wait weeks or months for help because authorities do not have the money.

Former judge to lead inquiry into race murder

BY STEWART TENDERER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AN INQUIRY led by a former High Court judge will investigate the role of police and lawyers in the Stephen Lawrence murder case. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, announced yesterday.

The four-strong investigation team will be chaired by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and will have similar powers to the wide-ranging inquiry by Lord Scarman into the Brixton riots in 1981. The inquiry will be able to subpoena witnesses and documents. Witnesses will be on oath and the inquiry could also fine or imprison anyone who refuses to co-operate.

The inquiry could question five white youths from south London who refused to give evidence to a inquest on the death earlier this year. Sir William will also have to decide whether hearings are carried out in public.

Sir William was appointed a judge in 1983 and has dealt with many judicial review cases. He is also 27th chief of the Macpherson clan and a former lieutenant-colonel of a territorial regiment of the Metropolitan Police.

The other members of the inquiry team include the Rt Rev John Sentamu, the Bishop of Stepney; Tom Cook,

former deputy chief constable of West Yorkshire and a police expert on race relations, and Dr Richard Stone, chairman of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality.

The inquiry follows Mr Straw's promise to Stephen Lawrence's family earlier this year that he would take action over the case. The 18-year-old student was stabbed to death at a bus stop in Eltham, south London, in a race attack in April 1993. No one has ever been convicted for the attack, which brought criticism of police ineptitude and inactivity by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Yesterday Mr Straw told the Commons that the inquiry would look at matters arising from the death "particularly to identify the lessons to be learnt from this tragic case which will be relevant to the future handling of racially-motivated crimes by the criminal justice system."

After the announcement of the inquiry, Neville Lawrence, father of the dead boy, told a press conference that the family were "happy with what we have got today. I am grateful to the Home Secretary for listening to what we have said and granting our wishes. I would like to see some of the people who killed my son behind bars."

Imran Khan, solicitor for the family, said Sir William was a well-respected judge. He said ideally he and the family would have wanted a judge who had some empathy with the black community because they could understand racism. But Mr Khan said he was not aware of any black High Court judges. A number of names had been put forward by the Lawrence family to the Home Office but Mr Straw told the family that despite his efforts it had not been possible to get any of them to serve.

The report by the Police Complaints Authority will be published.

Mr Straw told MPs: "I believe the establishment of



Neville Lawrence, father of the murdered Stephen Lawrence, yesterday

MPs in a state over missed reading

BY POLLY NEWTON

IT WAS one of the most unlikely bestsellers of 1995. *The State We're In*, an analysis by Will Hutton of economic and social issues affecting Britain, became the book to be seen with for anyone on the Left. Now, it seems, its success has spawned a whole new class of people in politics: those who feel guilty that they have not read it.

In a survey by Diltons of MPs' reading habits, *The State We're In* was named by more respondents than any other book when asked: "What's the book all your friends have been urging you to read but you haven't got round to yet?" Second in the "guilt" category was Sophie's World, a novel that tackles questions of philosophy in a style aimed ostensibly at children. Third was Wild Swans, a biographical (and very long) account of the lives of three Chinese women.

Jeffrey Archer was the most overrated author, with rumpus-up including Salman Rushdie and Barbara Cartland. Joint winners in the best living author category were Margaret Atwood, Umberto Eco and Doris Lessing.

Queen to travel in leased helicopter

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE Queen and members of the Royal Family are to be given exclusive use of a leased helicopter as part of their travel arrangements to replace the two ageing RAF Wessex aircraft which are being taken out of service.

The most suitable helicopters for hire at present are all foreign – mostly American and French – and the most exclusive can be tailor-made to suit the customer. Wealthy Arabs have been known to ask for leather upholstery.

The lease of the royal helicopter will be paid for out of the newly formed royal travel budget, a block grant supplied by the Department of Transport for all the royal household's transport. It was set at £19.5 million for 1997-98. The red Wessex helicopters, part of No 32 (The Royal) Squadron, based at RAF Northolt in west London, had been available for the use of other VIPs, such as Cabinet ministers. However, they were mostly used by the Royal Family. The annual cost of running the two helicopters is £3.5 million. Under the new arrangement, substantial savings are expected.

The Ministry of Defence is expected to seek bids from helicopter operators. The RAF will still fly the new aircraft, which will be registered as a military aircraft. The salary of the crew will also be paid out of the royal travel budget.

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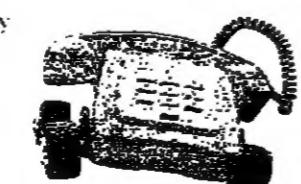
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The Avebury Four lose all their appeal

Michael Hornsby on a gang which may be going away for a long time

SIR LUDOVIC KENNEDY has been driven to reconsider his opposition to the death penalty by the antisocial conduct of four intruders in his Wiltshire garden. The offenders have even tempted the veteran campaigner against injustice to reach for a shotgun himself.

They are four peacocks who are popular among tourists visiting the historic village of Avebury but who have lost all their appeal among residents. The Avebury Four's crimes include destroying flower beds, pecking holes in cottage roofs and desecrating the cemetery. The parish council is now considering a sentence of banishment.

"The peacocks are a damned nuisance," Sir Ludovic, 78, said yesterday. "They come into the garden and eat our flowers and wild strawberries."

"There have been times when I felt like shooting them all, though, of course, one would never do such a thing."

Only yesterday morning,

Sir Ludovic said, his wife, the former ballerina Moira Shearer, had to shoot three of the birds away. "We like to leave our gate open, but that means the peacocks can easily come in. In any case, they can fly over the gate because their wings have not been clipped."

The birds live at the 16th-century Avebury Manor, which is owned by the National Trust. Its area manager, David Riddle, said: "Clipping their wings would not stop them wandering off, but it would stop them roosting in trees where they can keep out of the way of foxes. They have always lived free and cannot be housed."

The Trust says that it is very reluctant to remove the peacocks, but it has written to the parish council to say that it would be prepared to consider such a remedy if the problems experienced have become intolerable.

That seems to be the case. Peggy Blake, the churchwarden, said: "The peacocks are undoubtedly beautiful birds, and the tourists like them, but they have become a nuisance. They pull the thatch out of cottage roofs and take flowers laid on gravestones."

Sir Ludovic's neighbour, Lady Julia Beale, said: "They are a terrible nuisance."

Gavin Topham, manager of Stones Restaurant in the village, added: "They are not very welcome here. We have a few flowerpots that stand just outside the restaurant and, if got to the stage where the birds would devour the flowers almost straight after we'd planted them."

"We seem to have solved the problem now. We began running out and flapping our arms, shouting and chasing them off as soon as we spotted them reappearing outside. The guests were sometimes a bit startled by this."

Avebury has a population of



No more flying visits: villagers in historic Avebury may banish the birds, despite their popular appeal

just 630, but attracts thousands of visitors a year to its prehistoric stone circles, which rival Stonehenge in archaeological importance. Many of the visitors go on to the gardens of the manor, where the peacocks have long been an attraction.

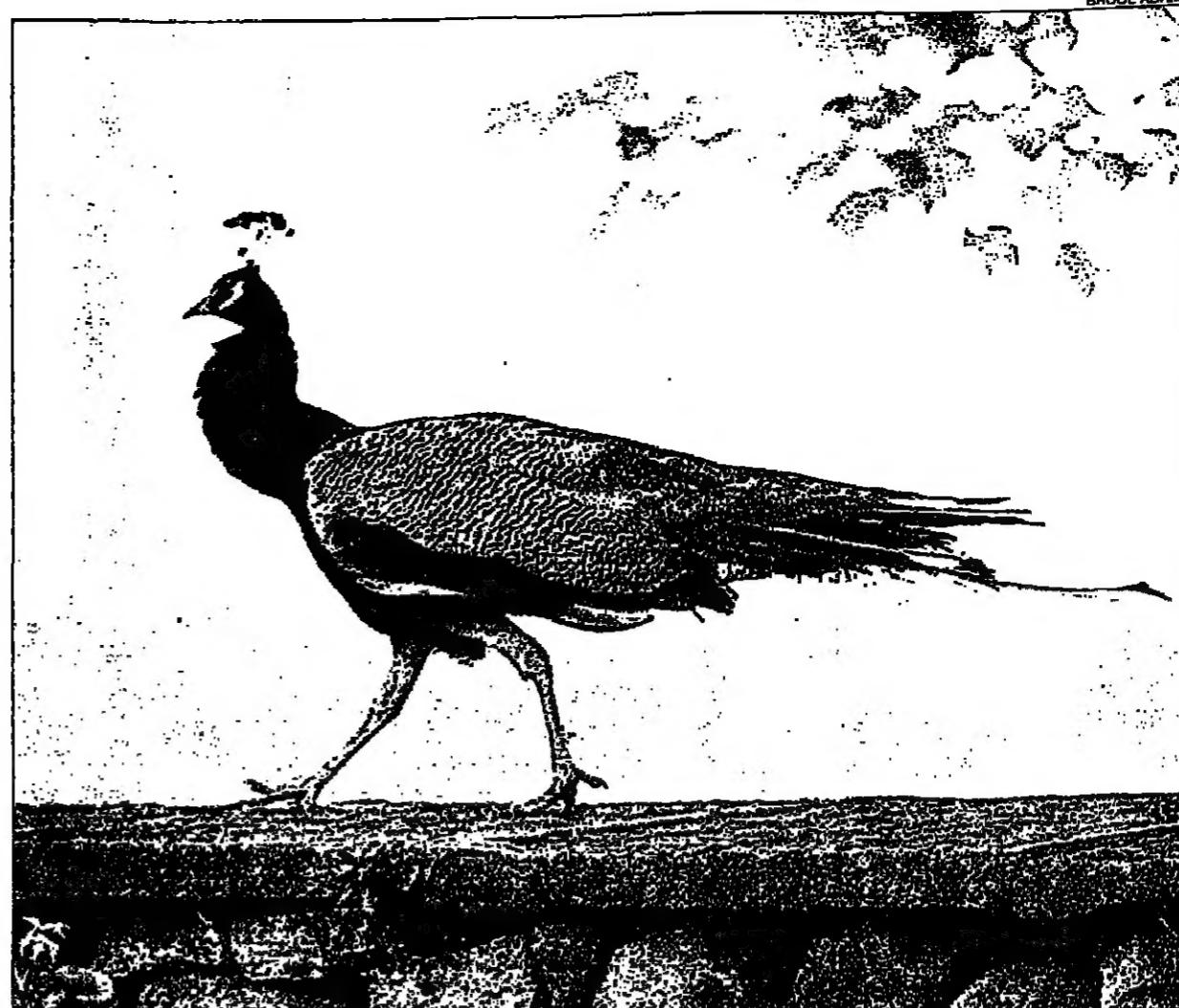
A spokesman for Wiltshire's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: "Eating

garden flowers isn't surprising behaviour. They'll eat a very wide range of foods."

"They are also quite a size, so their physically mowing through a gardener's flowerbeds is likely to result in substantial damage."

John Cronk, the council chairman, identified a further problem: "It is not just the damage to gardens. They are large birds, with a flying range of up to a quarter of a mile, and their droppings stink to high heaven."

The Trust has offered to pay compensation for any damage caused if the peacocks are allowed to stay, but I think the view will be that the birds must go. This is not a new problem. Residents have been complaining about the peacocks for years. Visitors may like the birds, but if we are not careful there is a danger in a place like Avebury of having greater regard for the needs of tourists than for the people who actually live here."



One of the wild ones: the peacocks are accused of destroying flower beds and pecking holes in cottage roofs



Sir Ludovic: he felt like shooting them

Hoots in the Lords at call for hit squad of eagle owls

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE recent appearance of a rare eagle owl on the roof of St Paul's Cathedral prompted calls for an encore, and some hoots of laughter, in the House of Lords yesterday.

The former Conservative Scottish Secretary, Lord Campbell of Croy, urged that more owls should be set to work on getting rid of pigeons and grey squirrels. Lord Campbell suggested that ministers should "encourage experiments" in selected areas and said that the St Paul's owl had done "a very good job in killing hordes of pigeons".

This, he added, was despite the fact that the owl, which has since died of a bacterial infection, was an "alien and an escaped prisoner". He said there would be no risk to red squirrels, a threatened and protected species, as they did not live in the same areas as greys. "So it would not matter if the owl were colour blind," he added cheerily. He saw a further advantage in that he had heard that eagle owls attacked small dogs. That would discourage dog ownership in the selected areas and help to keep pavements clean.

Before his imagination took further flight, Baroness Hayman, a junior Environment Minister, told him: "Encouraging the use of non-native species for vermin control would be inappropriate because of the risk of escape into the wider environment." She added that the last confirmed sighting of a wild

eagle owl

was in 1913. The eagle owl



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Parents who go ga-ga are doing junior a favour

Baby talk makes sense in any language, say the scientists who listened with mother. Nigel Hawkes reports

THE urge that leads otherwise sensible people to talk apparent gibberish to babies was given an intellectual explanation yesterday. New parents who suddenly find themselves going ga-ga are in fact emphasising vowel sounds instinctively, to provide vital instructions about the building blocks of language.

Research by an international team found that the exaggerated, drawl-out form of speech called "parentese" follows the same rules in English, Russian and Swedish.

It is not simply babble or affectionate endearments, but near-normal language, spoken slowly in sing-song style, with key sounds stretched out to make

comprehension easier. Hello becomes he-loo, with a rising intonation at the end. Sometimes syllables are repeated for emphasis ("doggie-woggie") or words enriched by extra vowel sounds ("baa-lamb"). By the age of 20 weeks, the baby's own babbling contains the same vowel sounds.

The team from America, Sweden and Russia was led by the American neuroscientist Dr Patricia Kuhl of the University of Washington in Seattle. Their results, published in *Science*, show that baby talk is characterised by over-articulation that exaggerates

sounds contained within words. Dr Kuhl says: "In normal, everyday speech, adults generally race along at a very fast pace. But we know it is easier to understand speakers when they stretch out sounds."

"That's why we tend to speak more slowly and carefully when we talk to strangers. We also do this unconsciously with babies, giving them an improved verbal signal they can capitalise on."

When women across three different cultures, speaking three different languages, show the same pattern when speaking to

their infants, biology is telling us something about its necessity and value to their babies," she says.

The study examined mothers, but there was no reason to suppose that fathers behaved any differently — other studies had shown they also use parentese.

Mothers spend more time with babies than fathers, so it made sense to study them. Ten women from each of the three countries were recorded talking to their babies, who were between two and five months old. The mothers were asked to talk normally and include target words containing

three vowel sounds common to all three languages: "ee", "ah" and "oo". The women were later recorded talking to adults.

The recordings were then analysed by spectrograph. The team found that in all three languages, mothers talking to their babies produced exaggerated versions of the vowel sounds, emphasising features that distinguished them from other vowel sounds. This was true of all 30 mothers across the three languages.

The exaggerated sounds allowed the mothers to produce a greater variety of vowel sounds

without overlapping other vowels. Dr Kuhl says, Parentese provides the babies with "essential nuggets" of information about language that their brains quickly absorb. After the babies start to use the same vowel sounds — pitched at a higher level because their vocal tracts are smaller — they become expert in reproducing the special sounds of their own native tongue and lose other skills which are not relevant.

Earlier work by other researchers has shown that Japanese babies can distinguish "i" from "r", but lose the knack because it is

not necessary in Japanese. The Kuhl team, which included researchers from the Early Intervention Institute in St Petersburg and from Stockholm University, conclude: "Language input to infants has culturally universal characteristics designed to promote language learning."

Anybody handed a baby tends to use parentese. Dr Kuhl says: "Carers, younger brothers and sisters, and even college students who were handed a baby have been observed using parentese. Parents don't have to work hard at this. Just by talking and communicating with their infants, they are playing a vital role without being aware of it."

Mother's joy at baby born to make history

BY RONNELL JENKINS

A MOTHER told yesterday of her joy at being able to cuddle the baby who made medical history and survived pioneering surgery for a life-threatening condition.

Vickie Harris cradled her son, Dylan, while he slept in his Winnie the Pooh romper suit as she spoke of her delight at the new medical techniques which had enabled doctors to save him.

Dylan was just three days old when Paul May, a consultant neurosurgeon at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, cut open a flap in his head to relieve life-threatening pressure from a blood clot developing between his brain and skull.

Dylan's diagnosis, made at 30 weeks while in the womb, was the earliest made for the condition. He now has every chance of growing up to lead a normal life.

Mrs Harris, 28, a chef from Claughton, near Birkenhead, who lost her first child in a miscarriage 20 months ago, said: "We did not care if he was brain-damaged, paralysed down one side. We just wanted him to live so much."

"When I first saw him after the operation, he was in an incubator and I couldn't hold him. I was able to put my hand in and touch him. It was



A scan of Dylan in the womb, which showed up the blood clot in the skull which could have killed him

a brilliant feeling. I think he is a miracle, a little fighter. He has just never given up on life all the way through. There were some days when we were ready to give up but he would never let us."

Her husband, David, 29, added: "We were told by Mr May that he might not come through the operation. We had to worry about what we were made up when he did. It was a miracle."

Dylan, now six weeks old and weighing 6lb 14oz, is fit and well, feeding and sleeping normally, and has passed his first hearing and mobility tests. Ross Welch, consultant obstetrician at Arrowe Park Hospital, Upton, Birkenhead, is guarded about the baby's future but the early signs are

good in a condition that once led to an early death or left the victim hopelessly disabled.

Dylan's condition was spotted when a routine ultrasound scan showed the signs of a blood clot so rare that there have been only a handful of cases, mostly in the South Pacific region. "We were devastated," said Mrs Harris.

"I first thought, 'Why me? Why is He picking on me, especially after the last pregnancy?' The surgeons were totally honest with us and warned us he could be paralysed. At 30 weeks I had felt his heart beat. So long as he was alive."

Mr Harris said that the couple could have coped with any disability; all that mattered was that their child

was born alive. "We could not have coped with losing him," he said.

There has been only one documented case of such a condition being identified in the womb, much later, to a couple with haemophilic tendencies, said Mr Welch. "This is the first antenatal diagnosis in a low-risk case," he said.

Both surgeon and obstetrician were able to confirm the diagnosis against the graphic results of an MRI scan (magnetic resonance imaging). It showed that Dylan's head was much larger than normal due to the bleeding. The baby was delivered by Caesarean section at 34 weeks to prevent further brain damage.

Dylan's birth went smoothly but his haemoglobin count was dangerously low and his head abnormally large. Mr May said: "I cut a window to the brain out of the skull."

"At that age the skull is so thin you can cut it with a pair of scissors. I opened up a small area three or four centimetres square, opened up and removed the blood clot, taking the pressure off the skull."

"It is very difficult in a case like this, where there is so much development and so much life ahead of Dylan, to be exactly sure what his future will be. At this stage he is a normal baby."



David and Vickie Harris hug their baby, Dylan. Pioneering surgery saved him

Leukaemia death rate higher near atomic sites

BY IAN MURRAY

DEATHS from childhood leukaemia are higher than expected in areas around landlocked nuclear sites, researchers have discovered.

The study, published in a letter today in the *British Medical Journal*, covered areas of Oxfordshire and Berkshire around the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell and the Royal Ordnance factory at Burghfield.

The letter, from Chris Busby of the environmental group Green Audit (Wales), says radioactive gases and effluent legally released into the air and the Thames and Kennet have become concentrated in the river valleys where south Oxfordshire and Newbury lie.

Dr Busby says figures from the Office for National Statistics show that leukaemia deaths were roughly double the expected average. In south Oxfordshire 12 children died in 1995 instead of a predicted five and in Newbury there were 11 deaths rather than six.

CORRECTIONS

□ Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy's criticism of bad practice among estate agents was not (contrary to a report July 28) directed at members of the National Association of Estate Agents, of which he is chief executive.

□ The Captain Pugwash deal (report June 26) is between John Cary Films (not John Ryan) and the Britt Allcroft Company, and its likely production cost is £1.5 million. Britt Allcroft does not own Thomas the Tank Engine.

Boy set fire to school in bid to delay exams

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1.60 20.9% 21.7%

1.28 16.4% 16.8%

1.28 16.4 16.8

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Gross % Net % Gross % Net % Gross % Net % Gross % Net %

Instant Savings Account Annual Option Monthly Option Instant Savings Account Annual Option Monthly Option

Investment Account	Annual Option	Monthly Option	Investment Account	Annual Option	Monthly Option
£100,000+	5.12	6.22	£25,000+	4.20	4.12
£50,000+	4.80	5.84	£10,000+	3.85	3.08
£25,000+	4.52	5.51	£5,000+	3.40	3.35
£10,000+	4.20	5.13	£2,500+	3.05	3.01
Below £10,000	0.50	0.50	Below £500	0.50	0.50

Gross % Net % Gross % Net % Gross % Net % Gross % Net %

30 Day Savings Annual Option Monthly Option 30 Day Savings Annual Option Monthly Option

30 Day Savings	Annual Option	Monthly Option	30 Day Savings	Annual Option	Monthly Option
£25,000+	4.25	4.17	£10,000+	3.36	3.30
£10,000+	3.95	3.16	£5,000+	3.08	3.08
£5,000+	3.65	2.92	£2,500+	3.35	2.88
Below £5,000	0.50	0.40	Below £2,500	0.50	0.40

Gross % Net % Gross % Net % Gross % Net % Gross % Net %

Annual Option Quarterly Option Asset Management Service Investment Account Gross % Net %

£100,000+ 6.22 4.98

£50,000+ 5.84 4.67

£25,000+ 5.51 4.41

£10,000+ 5.13 4.10

£5,000+ 3.35 2.65

Below £10,000 3.35 2.65

Gross % Net % Gross % Net % Gross % Net % Gross % Net %

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THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

A-level classics standards 'worst for a decade'

A-LEVEL standards in the subject classical civilisation have fallen to their lowest point in ten years, according to an examiner who believes that many of the 350 candidates he marked this summer deserved minus scores.

Jim Brennan, an A-level examiner since 1986, said this year's papers in his subject were appalling, with countless basic errors in spelling, punctuation and data. Mr Brennan, who recently retired as senior classics master at Dauntsey's School, near Devizes, Wiltshire, said his evidence did not tally with the 15 successive annual rises in A-level grades. He spoke out less than two weeks before this year's students receive their results on August 14.

The Government's own inquiry into standards was inconclusive in most subjects, largely because of the lack of records kept by examination boards. Classical civilisation A level was introduced in the early 1980s to combine the history and literature of ancient Rome and Greece, without learning the languages. In 350 scripts for the paper on the Romans, which accounts for half the final mark, many candidates failed to spell correctly *Aeneid* or *Caesar*.

Candidates were required to write four essays from a choice of 25 in three hours. Just six scored more than 70 per cent, traditionally the threshold for an A grade, but Mr Brennan is worried the true picture will be concealed on August 14.

Writing in *The Times* today, he says: "The board for which

■ An examiner tells David Charter that many candidates in this year's tests deserved minus marks for submitting papers riddled with basic errors in punctuation and spelling

I mark does not permit penalties for errors in spelling and punctuation. If it did, many candidates would have received a minus mark."

"The majority of them [the candidates] will be saying to universities and, eventually, employers, that they have an A level in classics, which sounds quite impressive. Yet almost all those whose papers I read are as close to illiteracy as they can be."

The most disturbing mistakes were in basic English.

Separate was often written as *seprate*, and *to too* and *two* were constantly confused. Almost all candidates commonly used *would of*, confused *there* and *their*, and did not know that nouns ending in *y* took *is* in the plural.

Yet while up to five marks are awarded at GCSE for spelling, punctuation and grammar, none can be lost for illiteracy at A level. "Candidates can write a perfect paper in terms of content and perfectly spell, and candidate B, equally good in content but with hundreds of mistakes, would get the same mark."

Mr Brennan's years of marking lead him to believe that teachers are not correcting homework. "This is not just pedantry," he said. "There are so many mistakes that should have been ironed out

Education, page 32



SIMON GROSSMITH

'Oscar' for autistic boy's cat in a million

A CAT that has forged a special link with its young autistic owner, enduring having its teeth painted and being carted around relentlessly, has won the feline equivalent of an Oscar.

Nutty, a year-old ginger tom, has never protested at the attention lavished on it by Simon Grossmith, 5, who has also bathed his pet and taken it for walks in his rucksack. Nutty's patience has brought it a "Golden Arthur", a trophy and £1,000.

Simon's mother, Nicola, of Reigate, Surrey, said: "This little ginger cat seems to be able to establish a link with Simon that people are unable to achieve. He's a cat in a million."

Another of the 14 regional finalists, Prudence, a Persian, saved its owner's life by signalling with its paw that the gas cooker had been left on. The owner's dogs were already unconscious from the leaking gas.

The judges included Patrick Moore the astronomer, and Wendy Turner, the television presenter.

Boy set fire to school in bid to delay exams

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged 15 was so terrified of taking GCSEs that he started a major fire at his school so that the examinations would be postponed, a court was told yesterday.

Daniel Welsh admitted destroying the library at Rhyd High School, Denbighshire, because he did not want to disappoint his parents by scoring low grades. He confessed his moment of "complete humanity" to police five days after the £26,000 blaze, and the school allowed him back to take his GCSEs this summer.

Welsh will receive his results later this month; after he starts a two-year sentence in a detention centre. Mr Justice Curtis said at Chester Crown Court that the incident was "one of the most serious in the book".

The boy, now 16, from Chester, told his mother on March 8 that he was staying with friends, but instead caught a late-night train from Chester to Prestatyn. He broke into the school and started fires by piling up books, papers, chairs and shelves.

Welsh said he was desperate to make his parents feel proud of him and, because he thought he was not going to do very well in his examinations, hoped to have them put off for

a year. He added that he was very sorry for the damage and the pain he had caused his mother and father.

Damni Bannon, for Welsh, described the case as "bad but serious". She said he had previously enjoyed an exemplary character. References handed to the judge included a letter from the school's deputy head teacher, who emphasised that the incident was "totally out of character".

Miss Bannon said Welsh felt genuine shame and remorse for what he had done.

This hare-brained idea was an effort to disrupt exams which he thought he was underprepared to take. He was so desperate to avoid disappointing his parents.

She added: "This was an isolated episode of complete lunacy from a young man under a great deal of strain."

Dennis Potter, for the prosecution, told the court that on March 8 this year, police arrived at Rhyd High School and discovered flames coming from the library area. A broken window was spotted in the library block and other windows were found smashed elsewhere in the school after the fire had been put out.

Welsh had attempted to set fire to a school canteen.

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Lord Simon bound by the law, the City and ministerial rules

Polly Newton and
Sarah Cunningham

on the difficult
switch from business
to government office

THE share dealings of Lord Simon of Highbury are bound by the rules of both the City and Whitehall as well as being subject, like all share trading, to criminal law.

As the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, the former BP chairman must follow a code of conduct aimed at preventing actual or potential conflicts of interest between his role in Government and his status as a share owner. That bars him from taking part in government decisions that could affect the price of his shares in BP or any other company.

Lord Simon, who gave up his £24,000 salary to become an unpaid member of the Government, was prompted by the Ministerial Code to put his non-BP shareholdings into a blind trust, over which he has no control. It also led to his decision not to sell or deal in any BP shares until January at the earliest. By then, the reasoning goes, he will have been away from the company for long enough to be unaware of its detailed plans and any impact that government action might have on them.

The Permanent Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry and Sir Robin Butler, head of the Civil Service, agreed that this arrangement conformed to the guidelines. When it is reviewed in January, Lord Simon could opt to put the BP shares over which he already has

control in a blind trust. Alternatively he could ask permission from the Permanent Secretary and Sir Robin to sell some shares.

Lord Simon's predicament has been made more awkward by a strong rise in the BP share price that has increased the value of his shareholding by more than £200,000 since he reached the agreement over what to do with it in May.

A significant proportion of his shares are being held for him by BP in a Jersey-based trust under the company's long-term performance plan, which rewards directors with shares if the company meets certain targets.

He will not be able to deal in any of those until the first tranche is released in May next year. If he then sells them he will have to pay taxes on them at British rates.

Lord Simon has a total of 247,000 shares in BP, at present worth about £2.05 million, including those in

"The DTI spokesman said: "Issues that will relate to BP will not come up at the Internal Market Council. If there is a conflict of interest – if BP is going to be on the agenda – he will not go."

"He is dealing with issues that are not likely to affect BP, but where they do, or where they might, he will

not participate. We could not be clearer."

Lord Simon is also a member of the Foreign Office task force on preparing the UK for the presidency of the European Commission. He chairs the Department of Trade and Industry's competitiveness task force and sits on the Cabinet sub-committee on Europe and on economic affairs.

He is not the first shareholder to face a potential conflict of interest by entering the DTI. When Michael Heseltine was in Government, his shares in Haymarket Publishing were put into a blind trust.

The Tories argue that the two situations were not comparable. A Tory spokesman said yesterday:

"There is a difference between a book publishing house in a highly competitive market, where he was not the minister for book publishing, and a market that is regulated by the DTI."

BP is a creature of Government."

He said the same argument applied to former Trade and Industry Secretary Paul Channon, who had a major shareholding in Guinness.

Lord Simon, page 16
Leading article, page 17

BY ANDREW PIERCE

LORD SIMON stands to receive a further tranche of up to 40,000 BP shares in an offshore trust worth up to £330,000 next year.

The revelation will fuel the political row over the executive share scheme managed by a Jersey-based trust. The final number of shares paid into the trust, which will depend on the company's performance this year, will not be known until the next annual report.

But BP confirmed last night it could be as high as 40,000 shares, which are trading at £8.37 at yesterday's prices. Last year the trust acquired 887,400 of the £2.15 million BP shares it retained when he resigned as chairman.

The controversy has cast doubt over the surprise appointment of Lord Simon to the Government, which was hailed as a coup for Tony Blair, emphasising Labour's new relationship with the business community.

The unpaid ministerial job for Lord Simon was confirmed on May 8 one week after the election. But the Tories, who were seething that such a high-powered figure as the former managing director and chairman of BP could join a Labour Government, were given a chance to exact their revenge two months later.

They pounced on July 8 when it was disclosed that Lord Simon had not disclosed his £2.15 million of BP shares in the Lord's register of inter-

ests. While he was perfectly within his rights not to do so, it was seen as a tactical blunder.

The Tories had to look only as far as the BP annual report to see the words of Lord Simon who declared as chairman of BP he had inside knowledge of the need for "transparency" and "openness". The Whitehall bible, *Questions of Procedure for Ministers*, which were revised yesterday, stated: "A minister should, upon assuming office, review his or her investments and, if it seems likely that any of them might give rise to an actual or apparent conflict of interest they should be disposed of."

Lord Simon stood accused of double standards.

However, when he took up his post he was advised by senior civil servants not to

dispose of his shares in BP because he would have laid himself open to charges of insider dealing. Whitehall officials argued that because of his position as chairman of BP he had inside knowledge of the company's trade performance during the first five weeks of the second quarter of the year. Lord Simon decided not to trade the shares and he will review his position on January 1.

But this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Tories, who finally had a release for their pent-up fury after months of banting from Labour on charges of sleaze. John Redwood, trade and industry spokesman, referred it to the Cabinet Office. The following day Sir Robin Butler, the

Cabinet Secretary, cleared Lord Simon of any breach of ministerial rules.

But the difficulties deepened for Lord Simon when *The Times* disclosed on July 12 that he had almost £1 million of his holding through an offshore trust fund. By buying and acquiring shares through the Jersey trust in 1996 BP will potentially offset capital gains tax if the shares have risen in value when they pass to him at the end of the executive reward scheme.

On July 15 it emerged that Lord Simon, whose brief excludes matters which relate to BP, had answered written questions in the House of Lords on the chemical industry the previous month. The Tories revealed on July 16 that Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, had written to Mr Redwood on July 5 to confirm that Lord Simon had put his non-BP investments in a blind trust. But Mrs Beckett was misinformed. The trust was not yet in place when she wrote the letter.

The DTI confirmed on July 19 that Lord Simon had signed a memorandum approving a European action plan which included gas liberalisation and a common tax regime for energy production. The Tories argued that both subjects impinged on BP.

There was further embarrassment at the weekend when it was shown that the value of the holding had risen by more than £225,000.

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ment at the weekend when it was shown that the

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by more than £225,000.

The Tories are ignoring the main concern

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

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good time with the No 10

Private Office; the timing

and form of announcements

should be cleared with the

No 10 Press Office. Each

department should keep a

record of media contacts by

both ministers and officials."

Co-ordination of govern-

ment strategy and its imple-

mentation is desirable, indeed

overdue – fully justifying

Peter Mandelson's minis-

terial role, as well as his

personal role as prime minis-

terial confidant. Similarly,

co-ordinating announce-

ments via the Downing

Street Press Office to prevent

clashes is sensible but this

paragraph borders on obse-

re and unacceptable,

centralised control. Either a

Prime Minister trusts those

whom he appoints to min-

isters or not.

These questions are far

more important than

the current obsessive

interest in the shareholdings

of Lord Simon of Highbury,

the Minister for Trade and

Competitiveness in Europe.

His defence in *The Times*

today is powerful and con-

vincing. The main result will

be to make successful busi-

nessmen even more sceptical

of politicians. Instead of

engaging in the type of

populist scandal chasing of

which they often accused

Labour, the Tories should be

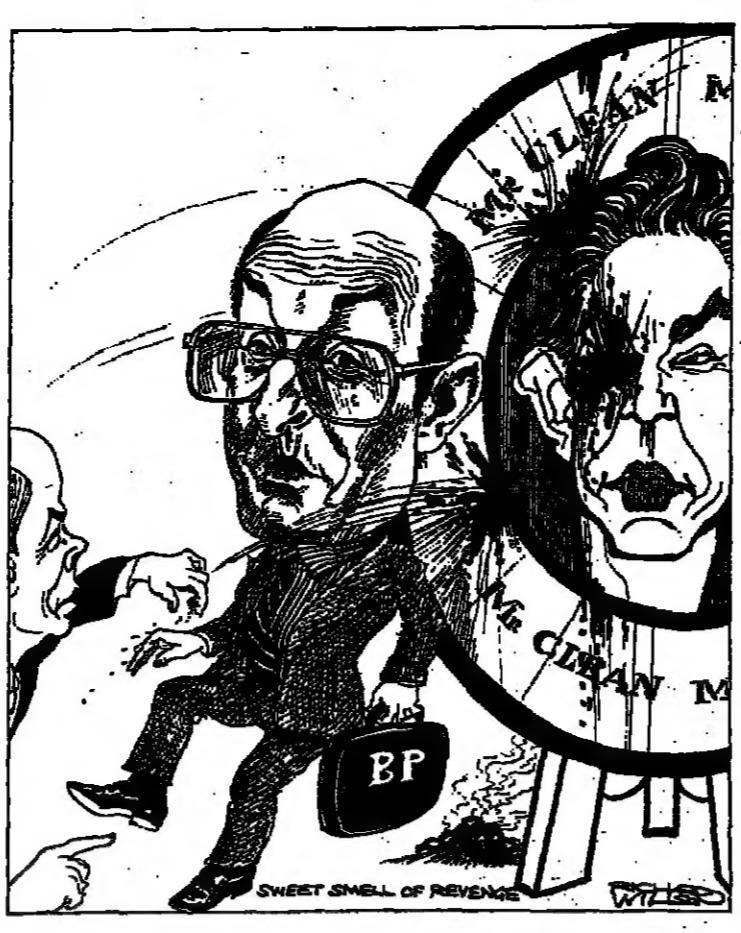
concentrating on the consti-

tutional upheaval in White-

hall, and the creation of the

Blair presidency.

PETER RIDDELL



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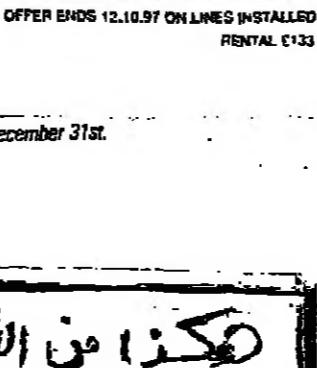
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THE TIMES FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997

HOME NEWS 9

You injected your lover with death'

Judge sentences Cypriot fisherman who gave Briton Aids to 15 months in jail, reports Michael Theodoulou

A CYPRIOT fisherman who is dying of Aids was jailed for 15 months yesterday after knowingly infecting a British divorcee, Janette Pink, with HIV. Pavlos Georgiou, looked stunned at the severity of the sentence as lawyers had predicted that he would receive a suspended sentence. He had planned a party last night to celebrate the end of his trial.

Georgiou swayed on his feet in the dock as Judge Antonis Liatsos told him that he had not only failed to tell his lover he had Aids but also "avoided all protection, injecting her with death for months on end". He stared in disbelief as the judge as was told he escaped the maximum two-year sentence only because he had to care for four children, including a son aged four who is infected with the virus, and "because you have only a short time to live".

For the first time since his trial began three months ago, Georgiou, 40, showed emotion as he called out to his twin brother, Petros, while three armed policemen bundled him out of the courtroom, in Larnaca. He reached out to embrace his brother and said:



Pink: relieved that the court case is over

"Look after my children," Petros Georgiou's mother is caring for them."

The judge had complained that the 50-year-old law introduced to the island by the British to stop the spread of cholera needed stiffer penalties "to protect the public which is at risk from this terrible disease". The judge said: "I would have expected of him, knowing his condition, that he would have taken all the precautions when having sex. His negligence led another person to death."

"Cypriot society must be protected, seeing that so many tourists come to the island."

Georgiou had boasted about his string of romances even while his wife, Martha, who also had Aids, was dying, and he was having a relationship with Mrs Pink, who had left her two teenage children in 1994 to begin a new life in the resort of Ayia Napa after her marriage to an accountant had broken down.

Mrs Pink, who said she did not want to be in Cyprus to see Georgiou sentenced, said yesterday: "This will hopefully make Paul [Pavlos] realise what he has done and stop him from doing it again. He just did not care that he might make me sick or make me die, and he has never shown any remorse. I'm relieved that this is all finally over."

Georgiou's brother said yesterday: "We have no hard feelings towards Janette. We never said any bad things about Janette. My whole family still have good feelings for her but we are surprised this case ever came to court."

He said his brother and Janette "stayed together happily for two years even after she was diagnosed as HIV-positive in October 1994".

In Cyprus there is concern over how the island's only jail, which has no facilities to deal with Aids patients, will cope with Georgiou. Legal authorities say he is likely to serve no more than eight months, but he might have to be kept in virtual solitary confinement during that time. He is considering an appeal.

Evin Baghdadi, a local Aids specialist who treated Georgiou and Mrs Pink, said: "Our



Pavlos Georgiou, right, leaving court with his lawyer, Tassos Economou, and twin Petros. He asked his brother to care for his children

prison doesn't have any medical facilities and at the moment he's under therapy that requires meals at specific times and regular blood tests. I fear he could end up in solitary confinement. The only way they can deal with infectious diseases in the prison is with two rooms that are effectively isolation rooms."

Lefcos Clerides, a former president of the Cyprus Bar Association, said that the jail sentence imposed on Georgiou was "still in view of his health condition".

Yannis Demetriadis, the doctor in charge of the island's only Aids clinic, who is also looking after Georgiou, said that his patient's imprisonment will not be good. It may affect him psychologically and have an adverse effect on his general condition."

Additional reporting by Daniel McGroarty

Charities fear prosecutions would undo years of health education

BY DANIEL MCGROARY

AIDS charities criticised the decision to jail Pavlos Georgiou and said they did not want British courts to adopt similar punishments.

Janette Pink, backed by her local Tory MP, Sir Teddy Taylor, has urged a change in the law to make similar prosecutions possible.

Derek Bodell, director of the National AIDS Trust, said: "What purpose does this sentence serve? In the end Georgiou is being punished for not disclosing his HIV status. People who are going through the trauma of diag-

nosis and developing Aids are often concerned that people will not love them if they tell them about their illness.

"What Georgiou is guilty of is falling into that misery we have created as a society. Yes, he has behaved badly, but we are trying to introduce laws into what is very a complex set of human relationships."

Mr Bodell added: "It is very dangerous if we try to introduce similar laws to those in Cyprus. People will feel they cannot disclose their HIV status. People who are going to know their status because ignorance will be

wanted to use this case as a deterrent to others. However, it will also deter people from seeking testing for HIV."

This will cause more difficulties in fighting the spread of Aids in Cyprus. We need to consider the implications carefully and see what lessons there are for us in Britain."

Susie Parsons, chief executive of the London Lighthouse Project, said: "We do not support any attempt to create a specific offence of transmitting HIV. The key issue is to prevent the spread of HIV and Aids and that won't happen by criminalising it."

Solicitors agree property shop deal

BY FRANCES GIBB

ONE-STOP property shops offering a package of estate agency, conveyancing and financial services could be in business by the end of this year.

More than 100 solicitors have signed up with a company called the Solicitors' Property Centre to offer a franchised network of property shops in England

and Wales. The move comes after a Law Society council decision earlier this month to relax the conveyancing rules and allow solicitors who run estate agencies to act for either the buyer or seller, or give financial advice to the buyer.

Harrow Countywide is already planning to offer conveyancing through its estate agency arm. Under the scheme agreed yesterday, groups of solicitors

Abduction woman is charged

BY JOANNA BALE

THE housewife accused of eloping to Florida with a boy aged 14 was yesterday charged with abduction and indecent assault.

Tracey Whalin, 33, of Bilborough, Nottingham, appeared before the city's magistrates accused of indecently assaulting a boy under 16 between April 1, 1996, and July 15, 1997. A further charge alleged that she took a child aged 10 from the lawful control of his guardian on July 14. She was granted conditional bail. The maximum sentence for indecent assault is

ten years and for child abduction seven years. Mrs Whalin, who was brought back from Florida on Wednesday, spoke once during the short hearing, to confirm her details.

Mrs Whalin, whose bail application was not opposed by the prosecution, must live in a hostel. The boy cannot be identified for legal reasons.



Bail: Whalin yesterday

Notice to Skipton Guernsey Investors

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Open Issue. The following rates of interest will apply on Instant Accounts from Friday 1st August 1997.

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Britain moves higher in bribery league

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BUNN

BRITAIN is seen as more corrupt than seven other European Union countries, including Germany, according to an authoritative annual league table released yesterday by the Berlin-based Transparency International group.

The rankings, analysing business managers' responses to corruption round the world, often shake up countries at the bottom end of the table. Anger over Pakistan's rating as second worst in the world contributed to the overthrow of

the Government of Benazir Bhutto, Nigeria which this year, as in previous years, is seen as the most corrupt of 25 surveyed countries, has been particularly loud in condemning the "poll of poll".

Transparency International is a private group, set up in 1993 to combat corruption, and bases its information on seven international surveys of business people, political analysts and the public.

The cleanest countries this year were Denmark, Finland and Sweden, which topped New Zealand from the top position. Britain came relatively low, in 14th position, its

image apparently dented by stories of sleaze. Significantly, it was overtaken by Germany, although the Germans still give broad latitude to companies which hand out bribes to foreign contractors.

Germany has been under pressure, especially from the United States, to plug legal loopholes which allow German businesses to write off bribes abroad against tax. Yet both Britain, and even the United States, which has strict legal barriers against international bribery, lag behind the Germans. In part, this is probably because of the nature of the survey, which does

not track such areas as company-to-company bribery.

The most corrupt countries this year are regarded as Nigeria, followed by Bolivia, Colombia and Russia. Pakistan has improved its position, earning only one out of ten for honesty last year but 2.53 in 1997. The chairman of Transparency International, Peter Eigen, issued a warning against focusing on Third World corruption.

"Corruption is perceived to be greatest there, but I urge the public to recognise that a large share of the corruption is the explicit product of multinational corporations, headquar-

tered in leading industrialised countries, using massive bribery and kickbacks to buy contracts in the developing world and the countries in transition." The Third World, in other words, would be less corrupt if developing states stopped offering bribes.

Indeed, the most revealing standings are buried deep in the table. Belgium, for example, is now regarded as more corrupt than Mediterranean nations such as Portugal, Spain and Greece. The Italians are seen as the most corrupt of the EU states in the survey, but the country has improved its score from last

year, advancing from 3.42 out of 10 to 5.03.

"Every day that the poor scores in the Corruption Percep-

BEST AND WORST FOR CORRUPTION

CLEANEST COUNTRIES

MOST CORRUPT

		(Marks out of ten)
1	Nigeria	1.76
2	Bolivia	2.05
3	Finland	2.23
4	Colombia	2.27
5	Russia	2.53
6	Pakistan	2.53
7	Mexico	2.66
8	Canada	2.72
9	The Netherlands	2.72
10	Indonesia	2.75
11	Norway	2.75
12	Australia	2.77
13	Singapore	2.79
14	Luxembourg	2.81
15	Argentina	2.88
16	Switzerland	2.88
17	China	3.05
18	Philippines	3.05
19	Ireland	3.28
20	Germany	3.23
21	Thailand	3.06

Source: Transparency International

Ancestor worship cuts the cost of Pacific paradise

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ONE of the most celebrated paradise islands in the South Pacific, complete with 25 miles of beach and its own airstrip, will be bought at a knockdown price by the Government of French Polynesia after a long-running dispute over land rights.

Tupai atoll, a 2,500-acre ring of coral in the Tahiti archipelago, once used as a private holiday preserve by the likes of Brigitte Bardot and the Duke and Duchess of Kent, will be sold for just Fr34 million (£3.4 million), or roughly a fifth of the original auction starting price.

Maurice Lejeune, a French lawyer and millionaire who has owned the island for 30 years, was forced to sell by his main creditor, the Bank of Polynesia, when his business empire collapsed. The asking price dropped dramatically after several thousand Polynesian inhabitants from nearby

Bora Bora and Tahaa islands claimed that the atoll had not been legally purchased from their ancestors.

A Polynesian court will rule on the validity of those land claims in October. This week Polynesia's Cabinet agreed a plan to buy the island, but the decision must now be ratified by the Polynesian Assembly.

The Government intends to build a hotel complex on part of the island and turn much of the rest into a nature reserve for the endangered species that flourish there.

In 1990 a group of Japanese investors attempted to buy the island for an estimated £35 million to build a hotel-casino, but that plan also fell through when protesters argued that their ancestral land rights were being violated.

The island contains the ruins of several temples and plays an important role in the ancient Polynesian religion.

The Government's purchase of the island may turn out to be an even better bargain than it appears. According to local legend, a crew of Chilean pirates buried a fabulous hoard of looted Peruvian treasure somewhere on Tupai in 1822, and were then all killed without revealing its location. Numerous adventurers have tried, and so far failed, to find the buried treasure.



A young Brigitte Bardot on honeymoon in 1966 with Gunther Sachs, her third husband, strolls along the beach of Tupai atoll.

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Speaking. You speak in the language you're learning. You can do this in a meaningful situation, and understand what you've said.



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Moscow says, "It's revolutionary." The **Daily Mail** reported that "Children using Accelerated Learning are racing ahead." "The results are spectacular."

BBC and **ITV** news recently reported on a school where ten times more students using Accelerated Learning got top marks compared with those using conventional courses.

Australia TV news reported "Astonishing fluency." "They did two years work in three months."

Hundreds of companies for whom proficiency is vital use Accelerated Learning for language and general training - such as Air UK, Boeing, Boots, Esso, IBM, Kodak, ICI, Rover, Glaxo, Sony, Tesco, Nestle, Lloyds Bank etc.

The balance sheet presented by Prague gives some indication of the economic damage.

Agriculture suffered worst - 190,000 animals drowned, 195 farms are under water, and losses are reckoned to be about £200 million. More than 2,000 apartments have been destroyed and whole factories and power stations crumbled into the torrent. The total damage will be about £1 billion, only a third of which is covered by insurance. The state will have to raise money, perhaps with special flood bonds and loans.

Poland was in a stronger economic position, but Karol Szwarc, Deputy Finance Minister, cannot deny the seriousness of the setback. It has been a proud boast that Warsaw could meet all the Maastricht European economic and monetary union criteria this year, apart from inflation. Now the promise rings hollow. Mr Szwarc admits: "As a result of the floods, the budget deficit will jump from 2.8 per cent to 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product." Growth would be slower than anticipated, more like 5 per cent than the predicted 5.5 per cent.

But the big concern is inflation. To cover the cost of reconstruction, Warsaw is trying to raise more than £500 million as well as borrowing \$300 million (£187 million) from the World Bank and taking on credits from Euro-

Floods set back East's EU entry timetable

BY ROGER BOYES

FLOODING in Central Europe has started to ease, allowing governments to count the cost of the July deluge. The Czech Republic and Poland now recognise that the damage could seriously set back their growth, spur inflation and hobble their progress to the European Union even before entry negotiations begin.

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But the big concern is inflation. To cover the cost of reconstruction, Warsaw is trying to raise more than £500 million as well as borrowing \$300 million (£187 million) from the World Bank and taking on credits from Euro-

pean institutions. The cash will be used for repairs and also to rebuild and modernise Silesia's infrastructure.

Even so the new money will

make it difficult to hold down inflation. Mr Szwarc reckons on end-of-year inflation now reaching 13 per cent rather than 12 per cent, but even this may be unduly optimistic.

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by insurance.

The state will have to

raise money,

perhaps with special

flood bonds and loans.

There has been lasting

damage, too, to Poland's cultural

heritage.

The floods swept

through libraries and

archives

in Silesia, destroying

literary treasures.

The German authorities have sent

drying technology to Poland:

the rest of the country

is still unpassable.

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Israelis swoop on suspected Islamic militants

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI security forces yesterday raided areas of the West Bank under their control to arrest suspected Islamic extremists after the suicide bombings in Jerusalem's market which left 15 people dead.

Soldiers and police arrested dozens of Palestinians, including the relatives of the two men thought to have been the bombers.

The military wing of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The men, both in their twenties, came from a village near Hebron, on the West Bank. They had disappeared more than a year ago after being put on Israel's wanted list of suspected terrorists.

As well as arresting Hamas members, Israel has cut funding to the Palestinian Authority and imposed an indefinite closure on the West Bank and town of Nablus.

The decision was announced as Israelis began burying the dead. Hospitals reported that 55 injured people remained in their care.

Palestinian officials described Israel's response as inflammatory. The officials claimed they had already begun their own operation against Muslim militants in the Gaza Strip and gave a warning to Israel against entering Palestinian self-rule areas to arrest suspects.

David Bar-Ilan, an adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, defended the stand taken by the Cabinet. He said Israel deserved the right to take action because the Palestinian Authority was not doing the job itself. Mr Bar-Ilan cited the 1976 Entebbe raid, when Israel rescued hostages held by hijackers in Uganda, as a precedent. "The fight against terrorism is universal and the

Americans have decided that they will not accept any sovereignty when pursuing terrorists that have killed Americans. This is the way things must be done, if the governments in the countries where terrorists operate are not willing to do anything against them."

However, Jibril Rajoub, the Palestinian security chief, said Mr Netanyahu should not expect any mass arrests of

Hamas members by the Palestinian police. His officers would arrest only those genuinely suspected of criminal activity, he said.

He condemned the suicide bombings, but added that the Israeli Government must accept some of the blame because of its support for Jewish settlements and other acts of provocation against the Palestinians.

Mr Netanyahu told Dennis

Ross, the US special envoy, yesterday that Israel had fulfilled its commitments under the peace accords.

□ Washington: Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, returned for emergency meetings in Washington last night, demanding security guarantees from Yasser Arafat as the United States attempted to bring momentum to an otherwise hobbled Middle East peace process (Tom

Rhodes writes). Mrs Albright, who has not visited the Middle East since her appointment, found herself at the centre of criticism over lack of US involvement in a process mainly driven by Washington.

"We must not allow terror to succeed in its aim of stopping our hope and our search for peace," she said. "But at the moment the focus of all those committed to peace must be squarely on security."

£2m damages

Hong Kong Kristian Phillips, 47, an American pianist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, who suffered damage to his brain and nervous system when he inhaled fumes from Diazinon, a pesticide, at the Academy for Performing Arts was awarded almost £2 million damages and £8 million costs. Vibac Geigy (Hong Kong) Limited must pay the biggest share.

Pot cropper

Los Angeles: Todd McCormick, 27, a marijuana millionaire, was jailed pending trial after police found more than 4,000 cannabis plants valued at £12.5 million in a raid on his castle (Giles Whittell writes). It was the biggest marijuana "bust" in the city's history, but activists said the drug was for medical use.

Jerusalem market vendors back at work in shadow of death

By Ross Dunn

ISRAELI resilience was on display yesterday in the open market in Jerusalem. Less than 24 hours after two suicide bombers killed 13 Israelis in the Mahane Yehuda, stall owners resumed trading.

Although the patrons might not have been as numerous as before, many vendors were confident that sales would return to normal.

Still, the anger could not be contained. One shopkeeper cried:

"Where are we, where are we that this could happen?"

Another shouted: "What are the Palestinians doing here? We are the Palestinians, we have lived here for generations. What do they want from us? Let them go to Jordan, to Syria."

The early reopening of the market was due to the efforts of employees who worked through the night to clear away debris from the

blast. However, not all the work was finished in time. Some shopkeepers could be seen still sorting through the shambles of their establishments, while electricians worked to reconnect power lines.

One vendor said he expected to be operating in about a week. He was receiving government support but questioned whether increased security would prevent more terrorist attacks. "I don't know if it will

help, because you know, they [the Palestinians] look like us," he said. The security forces obviously felt they could make a difference. Hundreds of police and soldiers were stationed in and around the area, while government officials visited the site to assess the full extent of the damage. The officials walked along pedestrian lanes, crowded with customers and curiously unlockers.

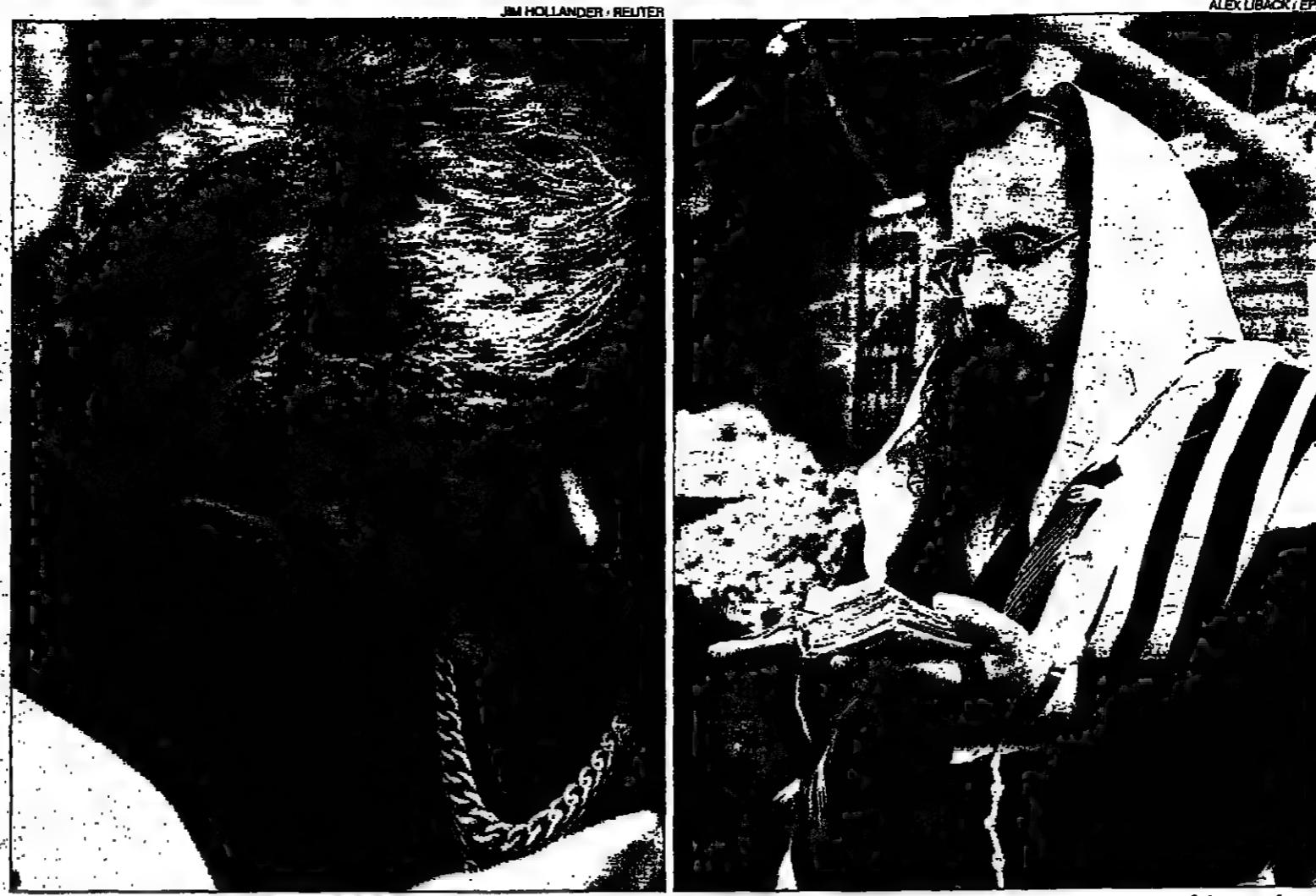
Among the visitors was Yaakov Neeman, the Finance Minister, who said he was there to assess "the humanitarian problems of people who were injured, people who had suffered, businesses which have financial problems, people who have tremendous problems of survival".

He promised: "We will deal with it immediately." □ Ramallah: The Palestinian Legislative Council yesterday gave Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Au-

thority President, one month to dissolve his Cabinet and appoint a new one after a corruption inquiry.

Legislators said the 88-member council voted 56-1 to urge Mr Arafat to appoint a new Cabinet with "qualified and experienced ministers" by September.

"We hope Arafat will respond to our resolution because the Cabinet must be changed," Ahmed Korei, the Speaker of the council, said. (Reuters)



WORLD SUMMARY

Smuggled migrants marooned

Athens: Hundreds of mainly Kurdish illegal immigrants stranded on a ship that suffered a power failure in the Aegean Sea told Greek authorities yesterday that they paid \$2,000 (£1,234) each to be smuggled from Turkey to Italy.

Greek authorities said the Ukrainian-registered *Sohol* was carrying 303 illegal aliens, including 26 children and 30 babies. The three Ukrainian crew left the ship, apparently to fetch food, but never returned. (Reuters)

Holocaust plea

New York: Alfred Defago, the Swiss Ambassador to America, has written to a federal judge in Brooklyn urging him to throw out a class action lawsuit brought by Jewish organisations to force Swiss banks to surrender assets belonging to Holocaust victims. (Tunku Varadarajan writes). He said the suit would interfere with "voluntary" efforts in Switzerland to account for the funds. Hearings in the case began yesterday.

£2m damages

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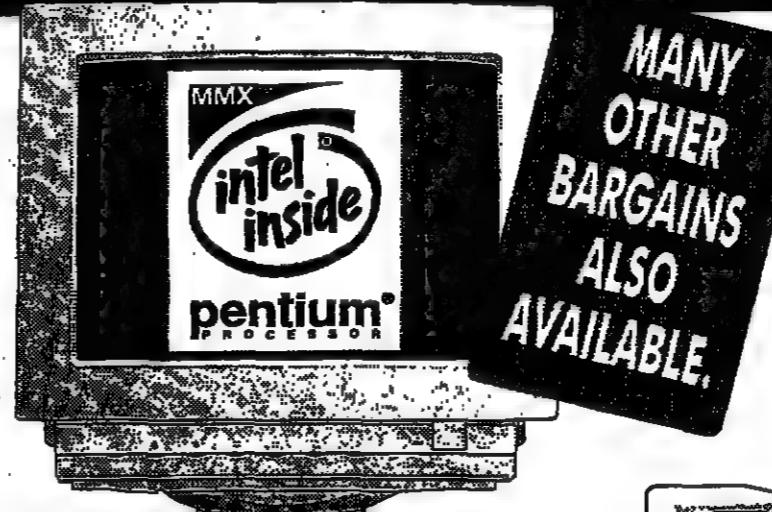
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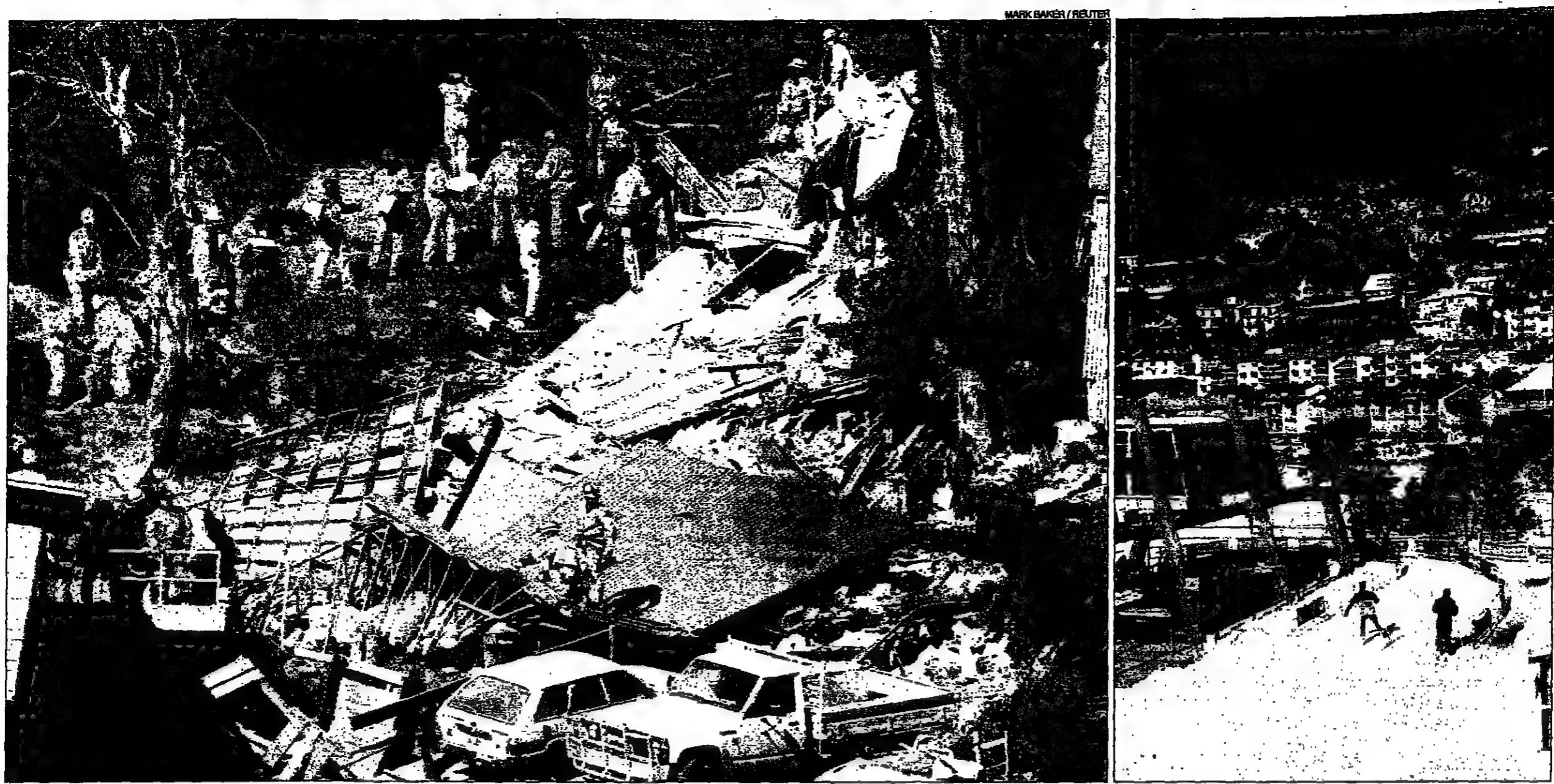
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OPENING SOON IN BOLTON



Rescue workers sift through the remains of two ski lodges destroyed when a landslide hit the Snowy Mountain resort of Thredbo. Heat-seeking equipment has revealed no sign of life

Ski lodge rescue hopes fade

RESCUERS last night continued to dig with their hands through the freezing ruins of two Australian ski lodges hit by Wednesday's landslide.

Eleven men and eight women were still buried under tonnes of debris at the Thredbo resort, 250 miles southwest of Sydney. Heat-sensitive equipment showed no signs of life. One body had been recovered so far. It is believed to be that of a woman who had been out on a midnight stroll with her husband.

Glenn Milne, an Australian television journalist, holidaying at Thredbo, was sleeping in his lodge when the slide hit. "It struck like a tornado

Fears of triggering further landslides are hampering rescue work at the Thredbo resort where 19 people are still missing, writes Rachel Bridge in Sydney

hitting the building. We were a bit over a metre and a half away. You virtually stepped off the steps at the side of our lodge onto the rubble," he said.

Mr Milne said cries were heard beneath the debris. "We could hear three voices. We tried to form a human chain and pull the rubble out, but as we did the cars teetering on the edge of the concrete piers

were in danger of coming down on top of us."

Rescuers worked through the night in sub-zero temperatures under floodlights, delicately prising away rubble under the threat of further slides. Emergency teams were forced to wait 12 hours before they were allowed into the collapsed area.

Bruce Johnston, a police superintendent, said the

efforts were hampered by fears of further collapse. "It's like a pack of cards. If we move something, we have to be quite sure that something else isn't going to fall."

He added: "There are no signs of life at all, but we are hopeful. One has to be honest, the hope is diminishing."

He said the exercise, involving more than 200 rescuers working in 12-hour shifts, would take at least two days of "methodical work".

Ron Stiebel, a regular Thredbo skier, was undressing for bed and looking out of his window as the landslide ripped past. "It was just like someone was emptying a giant vacuum-cleaner bag," he

said. "It sounded like it was a jet fighter taking off, or an express train going past."

John Bouropoulos, another witness, said: "I heard this big wind howling that lasted for a few seconds, then I saw the windows shake and then there was silence. Another couple of metres and we would have been history."

The landslide swept through the Carinya lodge, where one person was believed to be sleeping, and downhill onto the Simbaden lodge, where 18 staff members were staying. Many of the resort employees were Americans. Among the victims are believed to be an American-born couple who are ski

instructors and the promotions manager of the resort.

Kerry Muller, a youth hostel manager who was among the first at the scene, said three of her best friends were inside one of the buried lodges, including the American ski instructor.

The landslide occurred just before midnight at a time when Thredbo, at an altitude of 4,494ft, was packed with thousands of Australian and foreign visitors. The resort sits on a ridge facing the snow-covered mountain range of the Kosciuszko National Park. Australia's ski season runs from June to October, but has started slowly this year as little snow has fallen.

Nature blamed for landslide

SCIENTISTS have blamed nature, not man's interference, for the landslide in Thredbo (Rachel Bridge writes). Environmentalists had said over-development of the ski resort might be responsible.

Ian Plimer, a Melbourne University professor, said soil condition and natural subsidence meant the landslide was inevitable. "Steep alpine areas with thin soils and saturated soils are going to move," he said. "They've done it for thousands of years, and they'll continue to do it for thousands more."

Geologists believe an underground spring may have destabilised the mountain-side. Professor Russell Blong, of the Natural Hazards Research Centre, said that water was the most likely cause. "Most landslides are caused by earthquakes or occur after heavy rainfalls. In this case, it is probably the result of subsurface water movement," he said.

The Kosciuszko National Park has been the scene of many landslides. Five years ago several townships in the area were isolated for a week when a mudslide cut off the access roads.

Another landslide in 1978 destroyed a section of the park's main highway.

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Kant thoughts on marital counselling

Shrinks suffer an anxiety crisis

By TUNUKI VARADARAJAN
(IN NEW YORK)

SUFFERING from acute "shrink fatigue", New Yorkers are turning away from psychiatrists to a stylish new source of therapy — the "philosophical counsellor".

Bearing the message that Plato is better than Prozac, philosophers have taken on the lucrative burden of healing the city's angst. Someone going through a mid-life crisis, they argue, is not suffering from a pathology but a "crisis of values".

Led by Louis Marinoff, a professor of philosophy at New York's City College, the boom is causing shrinks to panic. Many are cutting their formidable fees to compete with those who spout Heidegger and Hobbes.

Speaking to the *New York Observer*, Professor Marinoff cited a recent case where he treated a woman who complained that her dead brother's spirit was troubling her. "Psychotherapists would say she is re-creating the guilt triggered by her brother's death. But it may be possible, according to some philosophical systems, that there was something there. I am there to help the client understand her belief system."

Marital problems are another area where the philosophers believe they have an edge over the Freudian "couch-men".

"We would have a talk about what is expected from one another in marriage, what the duties and rights are," he said.

In the new movement's "bible", *Essays on Philosophical Counselling*, the work of Immanuel Kant bobs up in the chapter on marital counselling; the gloomy Dane Soren Kierkegaard appears in the section on coping with death and "Socratic dialogues are portrayed as tools with which to handle drug addicts".

US ends reign of bankrupt capital's mayor

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE squabbling forces of the White House and Congress united against one man yesterday, reaching agreement on a far-reaching plan to strip power from Marion Barry, Washington's Mayor, and take charge of government in the beleaguered American capital for at least four years.

In an unprecedented proposal, attached to tax legislation fast reaching its final passage in Congress, a presidentially appointed financial board will provide the bankrupt city with billions of dollars and sharply restrict the limited self-government Washington achieved in its Home Rule Charter of 1973.

Mr Barry, who was re-elected for a fourth term three years ago, denounced the move as a return to the days when Washington was considered the last white colony in the United States. He said it was "jailing for months but re-emerged in 1994 as a man reborn who had renounced drugs and alcohol".

Playing to the polarised nature of the capital as a saviour against white oppression, he was re-elected, but has failed to improve either the financial circumstances or the state of the capital.

Colleagues believe the bold decision yesterday will only help to empower Mr Barry among the largely black underclass in Washington.

"It is a hydra-headed monster created to get rid of one man," said Sterling Tucker, a former council chairman. "It makes him a martyr, and he is a man very much at ease with myriads of cockroaches."

Washington officially became the country's first black majority city in the 1960 census. More than 70 per cent of the population is black and yet it is still known as the last colony, controlled ultimately by the white business elite and perhaps now by white politicians in Congress. The city sprawls over 69 square miles.

Thomas Davis, a Republican congressman from northern Virginia, said Mr Barry was personally responsible for the new loss of authority, accusing the Mayor of playing a Nero-like role in the city's affairs, travelling abroad as Washington burned.

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Rats survived because when people were ordered to bring in rat tails to show they had fulfilled their quotas, many cut them into segments rather than catch more rats.

Many campaigns have been bloodthirsty and were ultimately reversed. In the early years of the Communist period, millions of landlords were



A damaged Federal Express MD11 cargo plane lies upside down on the runway at Newark International Airport in New Jersey yesterday after it crashed, flipped over and burst into flames while attempting to land. The five people aboard managed to escape through a cockpit window with only minor injuries and they were all later released from hospital. The flight had originated in Anchorage, Alaska

Cockroaches are target of latest purge in China

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA'S newest mass campaign has begun: "Everyone get busy, wipe out cockroaches." Beijing residents were urged yesterday to spray insecticide twice during August, and rubbish collection is to be improved.

It is unlikely that the campaign, although worthy, will have more of an effect in Beijing than it would in Hong Kong, which is the opposite in terms of public hygiene but is nonetheless cockroach-ridden.

Anyone over the age of 15 in China will sit at the thought of yet another campaign. They are a Party hallmark. In the 1950s Chinese were ordered to eliminate flies, rats and sparrows, the latter because they were accused of eating huge quantities of grain. Millions of people banged pots and pans until the birds, with no place to alight, fell exhausted and were killed. Flies multiplied.

Rats survived because when people were ordered to bring in rat tails to show they had fulfilled their quotas, many cut them into segments rather than catch more rats.

There have been campaigns over the years against Confucius, who was subsequently "rehabilitated". Deng Xiaoping was "smashed and dragged out", together with his family in 1966, but later hailed as the saviour of China.

Letters, page 17

revised interest rates

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NOTICE TO INVESTORS

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NOVA STAR (NINTH ISSUE)				
£10,000 - £300,000	6.20	4.96	5.95	4.76
£1,000 - £9,999	4.30	3.60	4.25	3.40
PERIODIC INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF CARS ON NOVA STAR FROM 1st AUGUST 1997				
£10,000 - £300,000	6.20	4.96	5.95	4.76
£1,000 - £9,999	4.30	3.60	4.25	3.40
NOVA PLUS SPECIAL ACCOUNT				
£200,000 - £300,000	4.40	3.52	-	-
NOVA PLUS (ISSUE 2) / NOVA GROSS (ISSUE 2)				
£50,000 - £300,000	4.20	3.36	4.30	3.36
£10,000 - £49,999	3.65	2.92	3.65	2.92
£5,000 - £9,999	2.90	2.32	3.00	2.32
£1,000 - £4,999	2.60	2.08	-	-
PERIODIC INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF CARS ON NOVA PLUS				
£200,000 - £300,000	4.40	3.52	-	-
NOVA GROSS (ISSUE 2)				
£1 - £9,999 SUBJECT TO YEARLY LIMITS	7.05	-	-	-
SMALL SAVERS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT¹				
£1 - £999	3.70	2.96	-	-
INSTANT ACCESS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT¹				
£50,000 - £300,000	4.20	3.36	4.20	3.36
£10,000 - £49,999	3.65	2.92	3.65	2.92
£5,000 - £9,999	3.00	2.32	3.00	2.32
£1,000 - £4,999	2.60	2.08	-	-
£1 - £999	0.50	0.40	-	-
CLOSED DEPOSIT ACCOUNT¹				
NOVA PLUS/NOVA GROSS ACCOUNT (INCLUDING CLOSED DEPOSITS TRANSFERRED ON MATURITY)				
£50,000 - £300,000	4.20	3.36	4.20	3.36
£10,000 - £49,999	3.65	2.92	3.65	2.92
£5,000 - £9,999	3.00	2.32	3.00	2.32
£1,000 - £4,999	2.60	2.08	-	-
£1 - £999	0.50	0.40	-	-
SMALL SAVERS ACCOUNT				
£1 - £999	3.70	2.96	-	-
NOVA 50				
£50,000 - £300,000	7.10	5.68	6.85	5.48
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NOVA GROSS SPECIAL ACCOUNT				
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HONORED INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF CARS ON NOVA STAR				
£1,000 - £300,000	6.20	4.96	5.95	4.76
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£10,000 - £49,999	3.65	2.92	3.65	2.92
£2,000 - £9,999	3.40	2.72	3.40	2.72
HONORABLE INTEREST FINALLY AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF CARS ON NOVA FEEDER				
£50,000 - £300,000	4.20	3.36	4.20	3.36
£10,000 - £49,999	3.65	2.92	3.65	2.92
£2,000 - £9,999	3.40	2.72	3.40	2.72

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Interest rates are subject to change and may be confirmed by non-members or subject to the relevant confirmation rates. The net rates quoted are illustrative only and indicate a rate of income on 20%. Where the net deducted amounts are less

Quiet American invades Russia

The launch of *Vogue* in Russia is Jonathan Newhouse's latest coup.

Interview by Jason Cowley

As a young student at Yale, Jonathan Newhouse felt divided over his fabulous birthright. The scion of a publishing empire, he knew that he was expected to follow his father and cousins into the family business. But it was the early 1970s and his thoughts were full of rebellion and escape: he wanted to paint (he was reading *Fine Art* at Yale), to travel, to pursue creative interests.

"It was the time of the Vietnam War, there were riots on the streets and many young people were questioning the values of the older generation," he says. "I had very mixed feelings about the family business; it was not something I embraced automatically."

Time moves on: Jonathan Newhouse, 45, is today considered, together with his cousin Steven, as a future leader of Advance Publications, the privately owned Newhouse family enterprise which *Fortune* magazine values at between \$8 billion and \$10 billion. The family's wealth is founded on ownership of more than 20 regional newspapers; several major cable television operations; the Conde Nast magazine group, whose flagship publications include *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*, and the book publishing group Random House. They own, too, arguably the best magazine in the world, *The New Yorker*.

The chairman of Advance Publications is the reclusive, driven Si Newhouse, Jonathan's first cousin and eldest son of the late family patriarch, Sam Newhouse, who emerged from the crumbling tenements of the immigrant quarter of New York's Lower East Side to galvanise the family's aspirations. Si Newhouse may be, as Jonathan says, in robust health, but he is also approaching 70; he must surely be considering his succession. If so, Jonathan is handily placed: since 1989 he has driven the global expan-

**'It doesn't
suit us
to call
attention
to ourselves'**

tion of Conde Nast International while transforming its profitability.

The emerging economies of the Asian "tiger" countries and those in the old Eastern bloc are important markets. Flush with new wealth, people in these countries appear dazzled by Western luxury goods and designer labels. Newhouse has cannily responded by launching *Vogue* in Korea and Taiwan, and *GQ* in Japan: yesterday afternoon he announced, in partnership with Russian publishers SK Communications International, his most notable expansion: a Russian edition of *Vogue*.

He is thrilled that what he calls a "symbol of luxury, consumerism and capitalism" should be embraced so enthusiastically in the former Soviet Union. "To think that ten years ago this was a communist country and now *Vogue* is opening there..."

The first Russian editions of Western magazines such as *Playboy*, *Cosmopolitan* and *Elle*

were launched almost three years ago — and have prospered. Conde Nast, though, was more cautious. Newhouse says: "As a company, we tend not to be the first into a market because we appeal to the more upmarket elements in it. So we can only go into a market when our readers and advertisers are ready for us. This is the case in Russia.

"We see Russia as a very fertile market for the future. Russians are currently the most aggressive consumers on the planet; they occupy the same place as the Japanese in the Eighties and the Arabs in the Seventies. In luxury shops all over the world, the biggest and best customers are now Russian. If you walk into a restaurant in Russia you see women dressed from head to toe in Chanel and Versace. You don't see this in London or New York."

The vulgarity and lawlessness of contemporary Russia, with its mafia gangs and prostitutes, its *nouveau riche*

as flaunting their Versace medallions and Chanel "double Cs", is of no concern to Newhouse. "Look, we are from Conde Nast, not Interpol," he says, laughing.

"Whether a woman is a princess or a prostitute she still has to dress herself; if she has wealth and taste, or aspires to those things, the magazine she is going to turn to first is *Vogue*. Whether the money is being made dishonestly is not our concern."

In America, the Newhouses

exert a compelling fascination. What is perceived as their secretiveness and inscrutability, their dogged loyalty to one another, frustrates as much as it intrigues. The family abjures publicity. Sam Newhouse's maxim that "nothing matters more than the family" is a guiding principle.

Jonathan Newhouse says:

"Sure, we value our privacy as a family. We were all taught to conduct ourselves with discretion. It doesn't suit us to call attention to ourselves. As Jews

from New York owning newspapers throughout the country, we thought it wise to keep a low profile."

Unlike great newspaper proprietors such as Randolph Hearst, they had no wider political ambitions. "The typical newspaper proprietor in the early part of the century used newspapers for political and personal power. Our goal in owning newspapers was to maintain the quality and health of the papers themselves. We aren't Howard Hughes types, we aren't being obsessive — we just don't want to call attention to ourselves."

Did being Jewish in America have anything to do with their reticence? "It wasn't and has never been a problem, but maybe there was a time when it could have been."

The journey of the Newhouse family, in just two generations, from the teeming ghettos to one of the largest privately held fortunes in the US, is a metaphor for modern America. He agrees that "our journey typifies the American dream of arriving with nothing and building a success".

His grandfather, Meier Neuhaus, certainly had nothing when he arrived in New York from Russia, having fled Tsarist pogroms. The son of a

rabbi, he was debilitatedly poor, and scraped a living by making braces. "My grandfather, whom I never knew, was a poor man and in bad health. My uncle [Sam] was the success at business. He built the business, originally by borrowing and scraping money together to buy his first newspaper [*The Staten Island Advance*], from which Advance Publications derives its name, and then slowly expanding it."

Like his father, Norman, Jonathan Newhouse began his career in the production department of one of the family newspapers, learning how to set hot type. He progressed quickly, working in jobs of increasing responsibility before Si Newhouse moved him into magazines. In 1989, he was appointed chief executive of Conde Nast International and moved to Paris.

He enjoyed the city and his work, but was locked into a deteriorating marriage (his first wife, Deborah, now lives in New York with their two young daughters, Emily and Nora).

One afternoon, Newhouse visited a chairwoman who told him that he would soon meet the love of his life and move to

a "land surrounded by water". Shortly afterwards, he renewed acquaintance with Ronnie Cooke, who was to become his second wife.

They had first met while he was publisher and she was creative director of *Details* magazine. "I was married when we first met, so our relationship was purely professional. We kept in touch over the years and I even tried to hire her a couple of times."

After his divorce, they met again in Paris. "Things worked out and we decided, in the end, to move to London."

They married in Richmond register office in June 1995. Ronnie, though, has spent most of the past year commuting between London and New York, where she works as creative director of Calvin Klein. He feels her absence keenly. As a result, she has not renewed her contract with Calvin Klein and is returning permanently to London, working on freelance assignments. Newhouse says: "We have been apart a little too much recently. Let me put it this way, I kissed Versace more recently than I kissed my wife."

He describes Ronnie as the love of his life. "She is a brilliant, talented, vibrant, wonderful person; we have a very passionate relationship."

His greatest pain remains his separation from his children. "I talk to them every day and write to them. I see them on holidays and I go back once a month, sometimes twice, but this isn't nearly enough. It's terribly painful to be separated from them."

He pauses, shifts uneasily in his chair. "What astounds me about the British," he continues, "is how they can send their children away to school. To me, children are the most precious things in the world."

There is nothing imperious about Jonathan Newhouse. His conversation is engagingly colloquial, free from the clichés and jargon of so much contemporary business discourse. A small, shrewd, he is disarmingly polite.

He no longer feels damned by the wealth and expectation of the family legacy. "One lives one's life as a person you get up, do your work and take care of your family. Wealth brings ease, freedom and protection, but, in itself, it's not what's satisfying or important in life." So what is? "My family and my work."

To echo Sam Newhouse:

"The ties that matter are the ties to each other."



Jonathan Newhouse no longer feels daunted by the family fortune. "Wealth brings ease, freedom and protection, but, in itself, it's not what's satisfying or important in life"

THE SUNDAY TIMES



STANLEY KUBRICK
Stanley Kubrick's last film, *Eyes Wide Shut*, is reviewed by Tom Cokinos. Plus: the director's last days, his last words and his last film.

TOM COKINOS
Tom Cokinos reviews the new film *Eyes Wide Shut* and remembers Stanley Kubrick's last days.

GOTHIC GUINNESS
Jasmine Guinness, the latest aristocratic model, on why she doesn't mind being dubbed aristocratic. "I think it's quite funny — and it's helped me a lot."

ELVIS PRESLEY
Elvis Presley's death anniversary is marked with tributes from fans and friends.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Sushi — the kebab of the 1990s?

There is a moment at the end of *Withnail & I* when the drug dealer announces that the spirit of the Sixties is coming to an end because hippy wigs are on sale at Woolworth.

I know what he means. It is difficult not to feel the same way about sushi.

It is not so much that Japan's appetite for the stuff is supposed to be in danger of causing the "commercial" extinction of the southern bluefin tuna; rather the sight of boxes of sushi in Pret a Manger.

That this admirable chain of sandwich bars now flogs sushi, along with cappuccino and an ersatz Soho atmosphere, means that, according to Peter York, the style guru, the trend for lumps of congealed rice topped with cold fish "has had it as far as fashionable people are concerned".

Sushi has become the kebab of the 1990s. It had to happen, but there will be those who mourn its passing into the mainstream. There was something wonderfully naive about the way that sushi was embraced by the self-appointed fashionable elite of Britain.

The Eighties was a time when Japan enjoyed cultural and economic hegemony world over. Readers of the then nascent style press would drool over technoporn — loving intimate pictures of the latest miniature camera, microscopically-powered radio or sleek hi-fi system. Many people even got out of bed and slept on the floor — remember futons?

"People were craving about aspects of Japanese culture," York says. "Sushi suited people who liked to have obscure, nasty, raw food. Nobody in their right mind likes raw food. I went there [Japan]. I had it. It was nasty."

But back in those days York was in a minority. During the early Eighties Andrea Riva, proprietor of the famed eponymous Barnes restaurant, went into business with Lord Lichfield, the Hon Henry Smith and Eddie Lim and opened a restaurant called Pier 31 on Cheyne Walk. "It was quite nouvelle cuisine-ish,"

The cold fish has reached our high street, mourns Nick Foulkes



Once fashionable, now mainstream

Riva says, "but as starters we had sushi and sashimi: seabass, salmon and tuna. People were going more for that than the other things."

Not one to miss a burgeoning culinary trend, Riva installed a sushi bar and signed in a sushi chef. "He came from a dynasty of sushi chefs. The way they cut the fish goes from father to son, it is more a ritual than a way of preparing food," Riva says.

"We used to do sushi boats. We served it in a little boat and the customers must have felt as if we had come all the way from Japan because it took the guy so long to cut the sushi up."

Nevertheless, sushi slipped into the Wall Street lifestyle easily enough. A bottle or two of Cristal was ordered to start with, then some overpriced and

overcooked Oz chardonnay with the sushi. After which it was a bottle of port or a line or two of coke... leaving just enough time to wrap the Porsche around a lampost before getting up at Sam to go to the gym before closing that deal.

However, not all sushi's new devotees quite knew how to face this delicacy. There were tales of customers who ate everything including the little green plastic leaves on which the sushi was presented — a little chewy perhaps, but palatable once smothered in wasabi, soy sauce and shredded ginger.

The key to sushi's success was that it had been endorsed by America.

"It has those Californian overtones that it is good for you and the heart," York says. Riva sees the popularity of sushi as analogous with the rise of the cooking of his native Northern Italy. "Like everything that becomes popular, sushi did not come directly to England from Japan and Northern Italian food did not come directly from Italy. They came via America. Sushi and polenta have existed for centuries but to be accepted in England they needed to be baptised in New York or Los Angeles."

These days Pier 31 is a car showroom and sushi is being eaten by secretaries who want a bit of a change from their Philadelphia cheese sandwiches. There is nothing wrong with this, it is just that sushi is not what it used to be.

"What is interesting is to try to define what the late 1990s riposte to cold fish and rice might be. Given the excruciating trendiness of Momo, just off Regent Street, might not the food of North Africa become the hip thing? Any chef worthy of his own TV slot is bound to be brushing up on his couscous. And, as regards cultural hegemony, I have seen a few pieces about houses in North Africa in definitive opinion-forming mags."

If you want to get on the couscous trail better hurry — Marks & Spencer does an extremely tasty, ready-made couscous with vegetables.

Don't scare tycoons away from politics

David Simon defends himself as a minister and a businessman

When the Prime Minister asked me to enter the Government as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe I had to think twice. You do not resign the chairmanship of a great company lightly. I was as aware of the problems as of the challenges. I thought that my appointment might attract some criticism in the Labour Party despite efforts by the leadership to transform the party's relations with the business community. But three months on I am sure I made the right decision, and astonished that resulting criticism has come not from the less "new" members of new Labour, but from an apparent champion of the free market, John Redwood.

I am a businessman, not a politician. When I took on my role I made it clear that I did not intend to enter the world of party politics, with its attendant media circus. I prefer my work to be judged by results. I do not intend for that to change now, but I do recognise that charges continue to be made about my actions. While the Opposition has been careful to stop short of alleging impropriety, three central charges have been put over the last weeks. I think it is right that I answer each of them.

The first charge is that my continuing shareholding in BP is a conflict of interest with my ministerial responsibilities. There is no substance to this charge. It is clearly sensible that ministers should avoid any suggestion that their decisions are based on personal considerations. To ensure this, ministers who hold shares are offered three alternatives on entering the government. To take no part in official business which may constitute a conflict of interest; to transfer shares to a trust, the managers of which would take decisions without reference to the minister; or to sell the shares.

My position was complicated by the fact that, as well as being a shareholder in BP, I was the chairman of the company until my appointment. I therefore took the view that it would be inappropriate for that reason alone to be involved in any government decisions directly affecting BP.

In addition I had considerable insider knowledge of BP and I judged that my ability to sell the shares was constrained both by insider dealing legislation and personal judgment as to what constitutes sound governance. The day I entered my new office I took advice from the Permanent Secretary at the department. I was advised to put my non-BP holdings into a blind trust. That also is untrue. BP does, perfectly legally, hold shares in a Jersey trust which relate to the long-term performance plan, which benefits some 350 of the BP staff. It is a long-term scheme which only pays if the company is successful. Individuals pay tax on shares as soon as they are awarded to them. I have paid full income tax on all the shares held in the trust.

I understand the Opposition and the media have a duty to ensure that the high standards in public life to which this Government is committed are being maintained. But the facts in my case simply do not support their charges and innuendos. Both the spirit and the letter of the rules have been followed in every way.

I have a thick skin and will not be deflected from the challenge of helping Britain to win in Europe. My one regret is that the row generated by the Opposition may make other businessmen wary of becoming involved in government. Indeed, the logical conclusion from some of the arguments employed by what was once the party of business seems to be that all businesses entering government are inevitably subject to conflicts of interest and should be barred. That would be a shame for politics. It would be a shame for Britain.

Lord Simon of Highbury is Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe.

The second charge is that

Escape route

THE latest issue of the *Church Times*, mouthpiece of the Anglican establishment, tackles for the first time the previously taboo question of how the Prince of Wales might satisfactorily marry Camilla Parker Bowles. A French civil wedding, it concludes, may be the answer.

In a piece over two pages, Brian Brindley, the former secretary of the General Synod who has since become a Roman Catholic, says that nothing the Prince has done to date prejudices his becoming Defender of the Faith. Far more promiscuous men have become

King. There is also no objection to his marrying Camilla. The problem is the possible awkwardness of Camilla being made Queen.

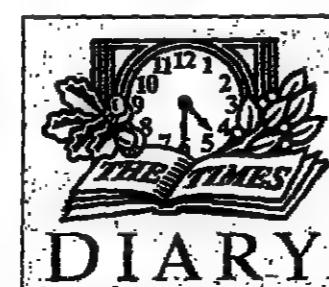
There is no legal provision in Britain, writes Brindley, for a morganatic marriage which enables royals to marry non-royals without conferring any of their titles or status on their children or spouses. So if Charles were to marry Camilla, she would have to become Queen.

Brindley, however, believes he may have found a way for Charles to marry Camilla, be crowned King and yet for Camilla not to become Queen — in effect for them to have a quasi-morganatic marriage without any change in legislation.

The Royal Marriages Act of 1727 says that members of the Royal Family must have the consent of the Sovereign or Parliament to marry. Without either, the marriage and any children will not be recognised.

Brindley cites four precedents in which members of the British Royal Family have married without the proper assent from George IV and Mrs Fetherbert in 1785 to Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson.

Charles, argues Brindley, could take Camilla out of British jurisdiction



Peter Brookes
11/8/97

Are the old ties fraying?

John Lloyd on our dwindling sense of union

The Cartier tournament, English polo's premier event, was played last weekend at the Guards ground in Windsor. The Westchester Cup, for which American and English teams have competed annually for more than a century, was won for the home side 12-9.

The day was brilliant. Glossy cars were arrayed in lines, with picnickers sipping champagne between Soldiers in dress uniforms directed people to their places. The conversation was happy, the accents Home Counties, the style smart-casual. The Queen came and sat with her consort on the balcony of a little wooden pavilion by the half-way line.

When the teams came on to the field, each man cantered in a long sweep before the Queen, each swivelling off his helmet in salutation. A magnificent game followed: the muscled, sweating ponies turning, racing and stopping in response to riders' commands. The players displayed the qualities of the ancient game — a demonstration of manhood and horsemanship. Here was a concentrate of a kind of Englishness.

A few days before, the plan under which power is to be devolved to a Scottish parliament had been revealed. The Scottish political establishment rejoiced. William Hague said it would be kept by a future Tory administration; the Scottish National Party said it would be supported as a gateway to greater freedoms.

In an interview earlier this week, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, told me that he had set in train a process which would revive a Scots political class, whittle down the duties of the Secretary of State for Scotland and stimulate democratic habits and civic engagement. Mr Dewar was careful to stress that it was a settlement which left sovereignty intact in Westminster: the extensive powers to be devolved — referendums permitting — would not, he said, reduce by one scintilla the essence of Westminster rule.

Yet (I thought, as I strolled uncomfortably about the Guards ground) sovereignty in this country was a palimpsest: a layered and subtle concoction in which consciousness in Westminster government was reasserted through a thousand shared experiences of empire and wars, of mingling of the Scots and English classes through institutions such as the military, public schools, trade unions, political parties.

The layers have long been unravelling. The shared sacrifices and triumphs are fading or discredited, the military a professionalised cadre of high competence but uncertain as to purpose, the trade unions in decline. The ties of class, the habits of command and deference, are being replaced on the side of the Scots by an insistence that an old right to statehood should take at least a quasi-socialist form, and on the side of the English by a dawning realisation that some new national self-definition must be attempted.

In brief essays he wrote in the 1950s on English writer Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa — the Sicilian prince whose solitary full-length work *The Leopard* put him in the forefront of 20th-century European letters — celebrated the English habits (as he saw them) of fairness, scrupulousness, care for substance over form, understatement and pragmatism. He romanticised these to stress his contempt for the decadence, showiness, mendacity and fastidiousness (as he saw it) of the Italian aristocracy.

But some Scots used to agree with him about the English. John Buchan's aristocratic men of action were as at home on the grouse moor as the polo field. His proletarians and petits bourgeois, whether Cockney or Glaswegian, earned admiration by their ability to coexist two types of patriotism — the English or Scots with the larger British. His was a world in which the dominant institutions had been cast off from a purely English to an inclusive British form.

Politics now dominates in their stead. The status quo is no longer an option: Scotland cannot be denied a parliament and remain governable. But its creation is — however skilfully Dewar has framed the new settlement — hazardous. The new parliament may make the slippery slope to independence more steep. It may, on the other hand, be a medium through which the Scots soberly conclude that a Union under revised terms remains welcome to them.

The Cartier tournament, great display of manners, wealth and courage as it is, no longer functions as one of the celebrations at the apex of a British Establishment. If it has been privatised and folded into the entertainment industry, a themed occasion with royal knobs on.

If we are to stay together as a nation, we cannot look to such occasions, nor to the Queen or her successor, to express a transatlantic ideal any longer. We have to find in political and personal choice, in the discovery of a preference for a space which provides a British solvent for the drear invented nationalisms of the Scots or the English, the Irish or Welsh. Or go our own ways.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the New Statesman.

The Andes connection

A favourite book is like a favourite person. She may not be the best. She may be no better than dozens of others you could name and she may be no better than she ought to be.

But you love her. You love her with all her faults. You love her, ready to concede without demur how easily she could be belittled, but confident you will never change your mind.

For me this book is *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. For those who care to be correct in these things, "Luis" is Spanish, not French, and therefore the "s" is pronounced.

The author, Thornton Wilder, died in 1975. He was an American, born in Wisconsin, who spent part of his early life abroad; his infancy in China. A schoolteacher, airforceman and later a professor at Harvard, Wilder is often described as a Christian humanist. The expression reads too briefly for so warm, open and rather mystical a writer.

After this book, Wilder went on to write further novels and some wonderful plays. *Our Town*, when I saw it produced by the Manchester Youth Theatre recently, reduced me to tears.

Thought no more than a chronicle of the unexceptional lives of a family of small-town Protestants Americans, it is written with depth and kindness and intensity — and an economy which leaves Updike floundering.

The Happy Journey simply places the members of a family on the stage in the positions they would occupy in their motor car, and follows them on a family outing. It is more moving than I can say. *The Merchant of Yonkers* found its way to fame when turned into the musical *Hello Dolly*. And *The Idee of March* is probably Wilder's best book.

But it is *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, published in 1927 when he was 30, which established Wilder as a great American novelist. He takes a real event in history as his starting point: the collapse of a hanging iron bridge in the Peruvian Andes, pitching the small group of unrelated travellers upon it to their deaths.

His glance fell upon the bridge, and at that moment a swishing noise filled the air, as when the string of some musical instrument snaps in a disused room, and he saw the bridge divide and fling five gesticulating arms into the valley below.

Anyone else would have said to himself with secret joy: "Within ten minutes myself..." but it was another

thought that visited Brother Juniper: "Why did this happen to *these five*?" If there were any plan in the universe at all, if there were any pattern in a human life, surely it could be discerned mysteriously latent in those lives so suddenly cut off. Either we live by accident and die by accident, or we live by plan and die by plan. And on that instant Brother Juniper made the resolve to inquire into the secret lives of those five persons that moment falling through the air, and to surprise the reason of their taking off."

In the slim, 100-page novel which follows, Wilder follows Brother Juniper's researchers into five separate lives, thrown (literally) by chance together at the end. It is as though we begin with some great discord on the cathedral organ, then follow each of the organ pipes from its construction through to this moment of cacophony. Except that the novelist finds beneath the final discord a secret harmony.

Even in that short passage you may detect some of Wilder's strengths and weaknesses as a writer. Beneath a classical style he is an emotional man, but clothes this in self-consciously formal phrasing. The result can be a little precious, at times forced, but reads beautifully. His descriptions of Peru are masterly...

"...a llama (a lady with a long neck and sweet, shallow eyes, burdened down by a fur cap and picking her way down an interminable staircase) came over and offered her a velvety cleft nose to stroke. The llama is deeply interested in the human beings about her, is even fond of pretending that she too is one of them, and of inserting her head into their conversations as though in a moment she would tilt her voice and contribute a wan and helpful comment."

But she never quite does. Describing the receipt of a cruel letter from someone who is dead, "full of wounding remarks rather

than virtuously of giving pain neatly", Wilder writes: "Each of its phrases found its way through the eyes of the Marquesa, then, carefully wrapped in understanding and forgiveness, it sank into her heart."

But I must not try your patience with quotation from a book you could buy and read yourself. After 70 years it is still in print.

The edition before me as I write is one of those familiar old orange-and-white Penguin paperbacks. It was published in 1941, but this copy seems to have been printed just after the war, carrying inside its back cover advertisements for books such as *Flight to Victory*.

It has just been given to me by a friend who bought it last year in Hay-on-Wye. He knows it is brilliant, perhaps said for the sheer virtuosity of giving pain neatly". Wilder writes: "Each of its phrases found its way through the eyes of the Marquesa, then, carefully wrapped in understanding and forgiveness, it sank into her heart."

And then this marvellous phrase: "How can there be organisation between brilliant men of balanced outlook like Mr Butler or Mr Eden, so suddenly cut off? Either we live by accident and die by accident, or we live by plan and die by plan. And on that instant Brother Juniper made the resolve to inquire into the secret lives of those five persons that moment falling through the air, and to surprise the reason of their taking off."

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Matthew Parris

Only speculation. If the writer is sufficiently famous his handwriting may be recognisable to scholars. I would half like to find out — yet am half inclined to leave the notes to tease me, as they now do, inside the cover of my favourite novel.

And I fancy that if Wilder is watching me typing, he will be amused. As it so happens, you see, I am about to fly to Peru. By the time you read this I shall have flown. I shall take the book.

A Times political columnist, Hay-on-Wye, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, given fortuitously by a friend; a past politician's speech notes; a train to Lancashire; an aeroplane to South America where both my friend and I intend to climb a 22,000-foot Andean peak... it is all converging.

Wish us a safe flight, but if the worst happens... well, I have done even better than Brother Juniper. I have surprised my own taking off.

Following my series on clubs for parliamentary spouses comes reassurance from the all-action Conservative Parliamentary Wives Club, still up and running despite earlier reports. The CPWC has held steady in the water under the command of Sally Neubert, wife of Sir Michael Neubert, the former MP for Romford. Its 180-strong membership consists of wives of current and former MPs, but no husbands. "Tory husbands, unlike their Labour counterparts, do not seem to need a support group," says Lady Neubert.

Unfortunately the station's youthful camera crew were more enthusiastic than competent. When they tried to play back the tape of their long interview with Cook, they found nothing but fuzz.

Returning to Cook's end-of-tour press conference, they were too shy to bother the Foreign Secretary for

another interview, so it was left to the men from *The Times* and *The Economist* to explain Cook's plan for Croatia — and reiterate the importance of a free press.

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WHATEVER SIMON SAYS

The minister's holdings break the spirit of the new code

The scale of the Conservatives' defeat at the election owed something to their policies and much to their conduct. Tony Blair, won on the promise of cleaner politics, "restoring the bond of trust between the British people and their Government". In yesterday's revised code of conduct on procedures for ministers, the Prime Minister writes that "we are all here to serve and we must all serve honestly and in the interests of those who gave us our positions of trust". And that, as he emphasises, means ministers working "within the letter and spirit of the Code".

The new guidelines are in many areas a tighter constraint on ministers than their predecessors. Labour has not only imported its discipline into government; it has now formalised the rules under which it operated in Opposition. So, for example, all major media interviews have to be cleared with Downing Street. So must the policy content, timing, and form of all speeches, press releases and announcements.

Departments even have to keep a record of all media contacts by ministers and officials. This borders on the absurd. The Treasury managed to do it, just, in its periods of pre-Budget purdah. But, given the number of occasions on which politicians, officials and journalists mix, either intentionally or accidentally, such a log would be immense. It is also likely to be circumvented if ministers feel spied upon.

Most topical in this document, however, is the section on ministers' private interests. This, quite correctly, errs on the side not just of probity but of perceived probity. Thus, ministers will want to order their affairs so that no conflict arises or is thought to arise and they should scrupulously avoid any danger of an actual or apparent conflict of interest between their ministerial position and their private financial interests.

It is to this section that eyes are inevitably drawn where Lord Simon of Highbury's holdings of BP shares are concerned. The new Minister for European Trade and

Competitiveness, who was chairman of BP until May 1, has given us no reason to suppose that he has acted with anything other than the highest standards of probity. But his £2 million holding of BP shares undoubtedly gives rise to an apparent conflict of interest. And it is hard to deny that such a conflict "is thought to arise".

Lord Simon argues, on the opposite page, that he cannot sell his shares without being accused of insider dealing. He also considers it "not appropriate" to put them in a blind trust. He does not address the question of why he did not declare his holding in the register of Lords' interests.

Since even serving directors of companies are allowed to sell their shares after each results announcement, it seems odd that a former director should feel bound not to do so. If Lord Simon has erred on the side of caution with regard to insider dealing, he has erred on the side of inaction with regard to possible conflicts of interest. Why should it not be appropriate for his BP shares to enter the blind trust? By absenting himself from all DTI decisions relating to BP, he severely circumscribes his usefulness. BP is one of Britain's biggest companies with widespread interests.

Businessmen have always had difficulties moving into politics, usually stemming from a political culture that resented interlopers. Now that there seems to be developing a greater degree of interplay between the two worlds, it would be a pity, as Lord Simon says, if other businessmen were deterred from making the switch.

The answer is simple. The minister should rearrange his holdings so that no conflict even appears to exist. It is odd that Mr Blair has not already asked him to do so. One of the more irritating characteristics of the last Government was a reluctance to admit mistakes and a refusal to put them right until far too much damage had already been done. A new Government demands a new style of response.

DENG'S TRICKY LEGACY

Ripples disturb the Chinese political lake

August is the month in which China's most senior leaders retreat to their private beach — to rest but also to jockey for future position. The centre of their attention is this autumn's Party Congress, a five-yearly event which has been given particular significance by the death of Deng Xiaoping.

Curious ripples are disturbing the much-cured surface of Chinese high politics, after months in which the official word has been one of no surprises. The political succession, with President Jiang Zemin at the "core" of a collective leadership, is asserted to have been settled by Deng long ago; as for economics, the Party needs no more guidance than Deng's doctrine of "socialism with Chinese characteristics".

In fact, this Congress is an all-important political event for Mr Jiang. Although he already holds every key position, they are a poor guide to real power in China. Deng, notably, held none after 1990. He must use the Congress to stamp his authority on Party, Army and Government bureaucracy and secure the most important postings for his own lieutenants. What this studied calm indicated, therefore, was that the inevitable battles for jobs and influence — including the premiership due to be vacated next year by the unpopular Li Peng — were to be kept firmly off-stage.

But this week Mr Jiang and senior Party ideologues have publicly advertised discord within the elite, accusing "leftists" — Marxist diehards — of attacking the strategy of economic liberalisation. Some of this may be shadow-boxing. The veteran ideologue alleged to be masterminding this revolt, Deng Liqun, and his allies are ill-placed to win over the big Party battalions. Mao Zedong would have dismissed their piping as "the buzzing of mayflies".

A more powerful and more covert challenge to Mr Jiang comes not from the left, but from a powerful wing of the Politburo led by Qiao Shi and Li Ruihuan. They are thought to favour more radical

institutional reforms than Mr Jiang, whose extreme caution has earned him the street nickname of "weatherbabe".

The immediate arguments are not about policy, but power; and they will be resolved before the Congress opens. Since all the players agree that there must be no hint of a political vacuum, post-Deng, they will present a united front. The more important question, for China and the world, is whether the new leadership can muster the genuine unity of purpose that will be required to address the "social contradictions" that Mr Jiang has accused the left of exploiting.

The trickiest issue is what to do about Mao's rusting "iron ricebowl", the vast loss-making state enterprises which consume 60 per cent of national investment and cost the country a fortune in unproductive subsidy. Zhu Rongji, the economic supremo leading the race for the premiership, has sworn to turn these behemoths around within three years; but this may be unachievable without mass privatisation. The left protests that to abandon the core doctrine of "the state-owned economy as the mainstay" would dismantle the ideology of socialism and reduce China to "an appendage of international capitalism". Moderates worry that these enterprises employ millions of mostly urban workers who, with social unrest and unemployment already on the rise, are politically risky to dismiss.

China's rapid modernisation is a phenomenal but still patchy achievement. Deng's brew of political immobilism and headlong economic growth poses intractable problems for his heirs. There is far greater cultural freedom, unmatched in the political arena; there are tensions between central government and increasingly assertive provincial authorities; and corruption has fed popular cynicism. The coming Congress will provide the first clues as to whether Deng's heirs can manage the forces unleashed in China by the success of the reforms that the master pragmatist allowed.

IN THE FAST LANE

Current car registration is not in consumers' interests

Amid champagne and canapés smart showrooms opened at midnight to usher in the era of the R registration automobile. In the next month some 500,000 cars will leave the forecourts, 30 vehicles per working minute. An extraordinary £4.5 billion will be spent — 25 per cent of all yearly sales — largely to satisfy a certain kind of snobbery.

This may soon be history. The Department of Transport and the industry itself seem determined to end this anachronism. For 30 years, August 1 has been the most important month in the motoring calendar. This curious date emerged through a predictably British compromise. An early experiment with January 1 proved universally unpopular. Manufacturers favoured June 1, dealers fancied October 1 and Harold Wilson's Government bravely split the difference. All the indications are that this will be the last such occasion. Within weeks, a new formula is expected to be introduced setting two key dates, in March and September.

If the switch comes it will doubtless induce apoplexy in some quarters. With a double-apex system, one-upmanship may never quite be the same again, except for those

so rich that they can purchase two cars a year. But the present scramble — for all its glitz and glamour — offers little but certain exhaustion for those in the showroom. It does even less for consumers.

Car sales in Britain have a seasonal quality second only to Santa Claus. Vehicles for August are stockpiled as early as March. They sit while almost nothing is purchased in summer. Then in a rush they are released on the market. This involves £1 billion in extra paperwork. It is apparently impossible for sales outlets to cope with the influx. The RAC estimates that up to one car in four develops an early fault and returns to base by the end of September. And by October, when most continental European manufacturers launch their latest models, they are no longer even the "newest" on the market.

Customers have little to lose by changing these bizarre arrangements. The trade might look forward to a somewhat more sensible distribution of sales and the sight of the beach in August. This particular tradition should be parked with little compunction. Britain should not operate a Rolls-Royce industry on a Robin Hood schedule.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number 0171-781 5046, e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Taking the moral view on the sale of arms overseas

From the Executive Director of Saferworld and the Policy Director of Oxfam

Sir, The Government's announcement of the new criteria governing British arms exports contains a number of positive signals. Although the qualifications identified in your leading article of July 29 ("The moral arms salesman", p. 1) are disappointing, the move towards stopping the export of equipment "which might be used for internal repression" gives at least some hope for the future.

Lord Simon argues, on the opposite page, that he cannot sell his shares without being accused of insider dealing. He also considers it "not appropriate" to put them in a blind trust. He does not address the question of why he did not declare his holding in the register of Lords' interests.

Since even serving directors of companies are allowed to sell their shares after each results announcement, it seems odd that a former director should feel bound not to do so. If Lord Simon has erred on the side of caution with regard to insider dealing, he has erred on the side of inaction with regard to possible conflicts of interest. Why should it not be appropriate for his BP shares to enter the blind trust? By abstaining himself from all DTI decisions relating to BP, he severely circumscribes his usefulness.

Businessmen have always had difficulties moving into politics, usually stemming from a political culture that resented interlopers. Now that there seems to be developing a greater degree of interplay between the two worlds, it would be a pity, as Lord Simon says, if other businessmen were deterred from making the switch.

The answer is simple. The minister should rearrange his holdings so that no conflict even appears to exist. It is odd that Mr Blair has not already asked him to do so. One of the more irritating characteristics of the last Government was a reluctance to admit mistakes and a refusal to put them right until far too much damage had already been done. A new Government demands a new style of response.

Plight of detainee

From Mrs Annie Anderson

Sir, Mr Mario Carneiro's plight as an asylum-seeker held in Winslow Green Prison, Birmingham, under the Immigration Act (letter, July 29) is unacceptable.

In 1994 the Home Office agreed that an inner-city prison was an inappropriate place to hold detainees. Additional accommodation was created in detention centres and since then detainees have no longer been held at Pentonville, north London.

Winslow Green or Pentonville — the principle remains the same.

Yours faithfully,

ANNIE ANDERSON
Chairman, Board of Visitors,
HM Pentonville, 1993-96,
2 Barnsbury Terrace, N1.
July 29.

Hong Kong officials

From the Secretary for the Civil Service, Hong Kong

Sir, Jonathan Mirsky's comments, in his report headed "HK shuffle" ordered by Beijing (July 29, later editions), are somewhat misplaced.

Article 48 (S) of the Basic Law (Hong Kong's "mini-constitution") specifies that all principal officials are nominated by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) and appointed by the Central People's Government of China (CPG).

What happened was exactly that.

The Chief Executive made the nominations, which were then accepted by the CPG. The announcements were made by both Beijing and Hong Kong on the same day (July 29).

The reason for the time gap of about 50 minutes between the two announcements was the fact that Hong Kong's statement was much more detailed. We had not synchronised the timing of both announcements to the minute.

The respective powers of the CPG and HKSARG in this area are defined clearly in the Basic Law and are well understood in Hong Kong.

Mr Mirsky's contention that "Beijing publicly humiliated the Hong Kong Government" and that "This new demonstration of where ultimate power lies in Hong Kong affairs will alarm people here" are unfounded.

Yours sincerely,

W. K. LAM
Secretary for the Civil Service,
Central Government Offices,
Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong.
July 30.

Radio 3 changes

From Captain M. R. Hare, RN

Sir, I am astonished at the volume and venom of your correspondents' criticisms of Radio 3's policy and performance (letters, July 24, 26).

I have no less pleasure now, listening to Radio 3, than I did nearly fifty years ago, when I first heard the Third Programme. Whether or not catchily titled are given to programmes seems to me to be of minimum importance: it is the content which matters and it seems to me that pure enjoyment has never been available in such copious measure as now.

Be heartened, Mr Kenyon — not all your listeners are critics who hearken back to some golden age which never existed.

Yours etc.

MICHAEL HARE,
Pathways, 19 Beatty Drive,
Alverstone, Gosport, Hampshire.
July 26.

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be suspended pending its findings.

The key to an enlightened and effective policy is to confront the tired argument "if we don't sell others will". We welcome the Government's commitment to press for a European code of conduct "setting high common standards governing arms exports".

Day after day, we and the people with whom we work have witnessed the devastating consequences of an unethical arms trade. The forthcoming UK presidency of the EU provides an ideal opportunity to introduce a restrictive code, even when this may have commercial costs.

Yours faithfully,

PAUL EAVIS,
Executive Director, Saferworld,
DIANNA MELROSE,
Policy Director, Oxfam,
Saferworld,
33-34 Alfred Place, WC1.
July 30.

From Lord Jakobovits

Sir, The squib of Britain's new "ethical" foreign policy, heralded with such bravado, turns out to be rather damp. To prevent arms supplies being used for internal oppression is but one aspect of the moral challenge.

The ultimate evil is surely the arms trade at large. Since the Second World War, no one has died through the proliferation of atomic weapons. But millions, tens of millions, have per-

ished through conventional arms peddled by the world's great arms producers.

Worse still, the arms trade has ruined the economies of scores of nations which have spent their scarce resources on buying arms rather than on growing crops or on investing in trade and self-sufficiency. Thus does the arms trade cause wars, famine, and poverty, sinking potentially prosperous lands into utter destitution.

One always hears two arguments to justify the curse of the arms trade. If we did not sell the arms, others would; and our own armaments industry depends on these sales. According to the first, you might as well encourage the Government to push drugs. As to the second, it is never moral to help kill others in order to save your own life, let alone to advance your economy.

Let Britain pioneer universal agreement to ban the sale and shipment of arms, gradually transforming the vast investment of money and brain-power to better medical or educational care. If we cannot overnight beat our swords into ploughshares, we can make an immediate start by putting a strict arms control on the international agenda as a key to saving and improving countless millions of lives.

Yours sincerely,
JAKOBOVITS,
House of Lords.
July 30.

Assistance on floods in East Europe

From the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

Sir, Your leading article today, "After the flood", claims that "the most insidious and perhaps the greatest damage will be to the political confidence within and between Germany and its neighbours". I feel this is less than fair. On the contrary, neighbouring help across the river has been spontaneous and substantial.

Already more than DM4 million from official funds and DM12 million from private initiatives have reached Poland, as well as large amounts of equipment, machinery and technical help, including specialised materials to preserve valuable documents and cultural artefacts exposed to the floods. It is fair to say that no other European country has offered even remotely comparable assistance.

The German Red Cross has opened a centre to house flood refugees and to provide fresh water supplies in Poland. It has also launched a nationwide appeal in Germany for funds under the slogan "Neighbours in Need" to provide emergency aid in Poland. Mr Andrzej Byrt, Ambassador of Poland in Germany, has publicly stated his appreciation, saying that: "A friend in need is a friend indeed. The Germans have given us solid assistance."

The record of German willingness to put first things first and alleviate suffering among its neighbours is there for all to see.

Yours sincerely,

JURGEN OESTERHELT,
Embassy of the Federal
Republic of Germany,
23 Belgrave Square, SW1.
July 30.

From the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland

Sir, Writing well into the fourth week of the flooding in Poland and other Central European countries, you are right to point to the enormous toll exacted by the floods. You are also right to draw attention to the significance of intergovernmental co-operation in the region.

You are quite wrong, however, if you believe that such a flood in

Poland, "merciless" as it is, can sweep away seven years of Herculean efforts to reform the economy; and you are quite wrong to believe that any amount of rainfall could stop — "at the water's edge" — the development of the Polish-German co-operation.

I am particularly concerned by your speculation about "further delays to the great political project of European Union enlargement". Loss of confidence in the enlargement of Nato and the EU would be potentially more dangerous than the floods or the consequences thereof on the ground.

We are, Sir, yours sincerely,
A. P. SPOONER
(P.W., Italy, 1942-43).

DESMOND BUCHANAN
(P.W., Italy, 1942-43).

TONY DAVIES
(P.W., Italy/Germany, 1942-45).

MICHAEL GILBERT
(P.W., Italy, 1943).

ERIC NEWBY
(P.W., Italy/Germany, 1942-45).

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997

NEWS

Simon breaks silence on shares

■ Lord Simon of Highbury, the minister at the centre of the BP shares row, today fights back against his Tory critics, rejecting their "charges and innuendoes" that he is guilty of a conflict of interest in keeping his £2 million holding.

The Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, and former chairman of BP, warns that the furore stirred up by the Conservatives might make other businessmen wary of becoming involved in government. Pages 1, 8, 16

Explorer finds sunken Roman treasures

■ The explorer who found the wreck of the *Titanic* has used an underwater robot and a nuclear submarine to plow the depths of the Mediterranean, discovering the greatest concentration of ancient shipwrecks. Robert Ballard was joined by two British archaeologists in his latest venture. Pages 1, 3

Mills battle

Dame Barbara Mills was fighting to restore her credibility as Director of Public Prosecution as the Government further reduced her independence after the Crown Prosecution Service was castigated by the courts. Page 1

Fishing claims

Spanish trawler owners are entitled to claim compensation for the multimillion-pound losses they claim they suffered while being excluded from British fishing waters, the High Court ruled. Page 1

Blair code

Tony Blair has approved the toughest "catch all" code to govern the conduct of Ministers in a clear attempt to clean up politics, restore public trust and enshrine the primacy of No 10. Page 2

Mother's name right

A woman has the right to give her illegitimate baby her own surname, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday. Page 2

School trip drowning

A ten-year-old girl died after getting into difficulties while swimming on a school trip to the North Welsh coast. Page 3

Lawrence inquiry

A four-man inquiry led by a former High Court judge will investigate the role of police and lawyers in the Stephen Lawrence case. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, announced. Page 4

The Avebury Four lose their appeal

■ Sir Ludovic Kennedy has been driven to reconsider his opposition to the death penalty by the anti-social conduct of four intruders in his Wiltshire garden. They are peacocks who are popular among tourists visiting the historic village of Avebury but who have lost all their appeal among residents. Page 5



Linford Christie, dressed as an ancient Greek, with Jamie Bauch before the World Athletics Championships in Athens. Page 38

BUSINESS

Social Security: The Department is to sell its entire property portfolio, worth some £400 million, to a consortium led by Goldman Sachs, an American investment bank. Page 21

London Transport: London Transport has awarded a Private Finance Initiative project to replace bus and Underground tickets with new "smart cards" to a consortium led by ICL, the computer group, and EDS, the Texan consultancy. Page 21

Capital bid: Nigel Griffiths, the Competition Minister, referred Capital Radio's bid for Virgin Radio to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Page 21

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 19.8 to 4907.5. Sterling rose to 104.6 after rises from \$1.6323 to \$1.6373 and DM2.995 to DM3.0067. Page 24

SPORT

Athletics: The decision to reduce bans on athletes found guilty of drug taking from four to two years prompted a furious response from Linford Christie. Pages 38, 40

Cricket: Stuart Law, the Australian batsman who plays for Essex, hit a magnificent century against Nottinghamshire. Much of the rest of the championship programme was disrupted by rain. Page 36

Football: Manchester United have abandoned their attempts to sign Celio Silva, the Brazil defender, after the player was refused a work permit. Page 40

Golf: The intense competition to win places in the Europe Ryder Cup team dominated matters on the first day of the Volvo Scandinavian Masters in Malmö. Page 37

In from the cold: Dreadzone are the laid-back heroes of summer festivals but in a warm dry studio they come unstuck. David Sinclair on the week's top albums. Page 28

Chemical reaction: Who plays "psychedelic hip hop, trance-melting space-bombed electro techno rock 'n' roll with extra superfly funk?" The Chemical Brothers. Page 29

Road rage: Going on the road with a rock band may sound like a sexy, thrilling adventure, but the reality is a fock-ruining exercise in bore-dom, says Caitlin Moran. Page 29

Kirov curiosity: The *Fountain of Bakhchisarai* is classic Soviet melodrama with an unremarkable score and choreography but that doesn't stop the Kirov giving it their all. Page 30

Kirov curiosity: The *Fountain of Bakhchisarai* is classic Soviet melodrama with an unremarkable score and choreography but that doesn't stop the Kirov giving it their all. Page 30

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

CAR 97: Celebrating the motorcycle boom with competitions and giveaways of some great bikes

DIRECTORY: Britain's Young Turks take over the world of the pop video

RADIO & TV

Preview: Gregor Fisher is back as the string-vested sage, *Rab C. Nesbit* (BBC2, 9.30pm). Review: Matthew Bond on Patten's farewell to Hong Kong. Page 36, 39

OPINION

What Simon says

If Lord Simon has erred on the side of caution with regard to insider dealing, he has erred on the side of inaction with regard to possible conflicts of interest. Page 17

Deng's tricky legacy

The coming Congress will provide the first clues as to whether Deng's heirs can manage the forces unleashed in China by the success of the limited reforms that the master pragmatist allowed. Page 17

In the fast lane

The motor trade might look forward to a somewhat more sensible distribution of sales and the sight of the beach in August. This particular tradition should be parked with little compunction. Page 17

COLUMNS

LORD SIMON

When the Prime Minister asked me to be Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, I had to think twice about it. Three months on I am sure that I made the right decision. Page 16

JOHN LLOYD

Sovereignty in this country was once a layered and subtle concord in which acquiescence in Westminster government was reasserted through a thousand shared experiences. But the layers have long been unravelling. Page 16

MATTHEW PARRIS

A favourite book is like a favourite person. She may not be the best. She may be no better than dozens of others and she may be no better than she ought to be. But you love her with all her faults. For me this book is Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

The Tories should be concentrating on the constitutional upheaval in Whitehall and the creation of the Blair presidency. Page 8

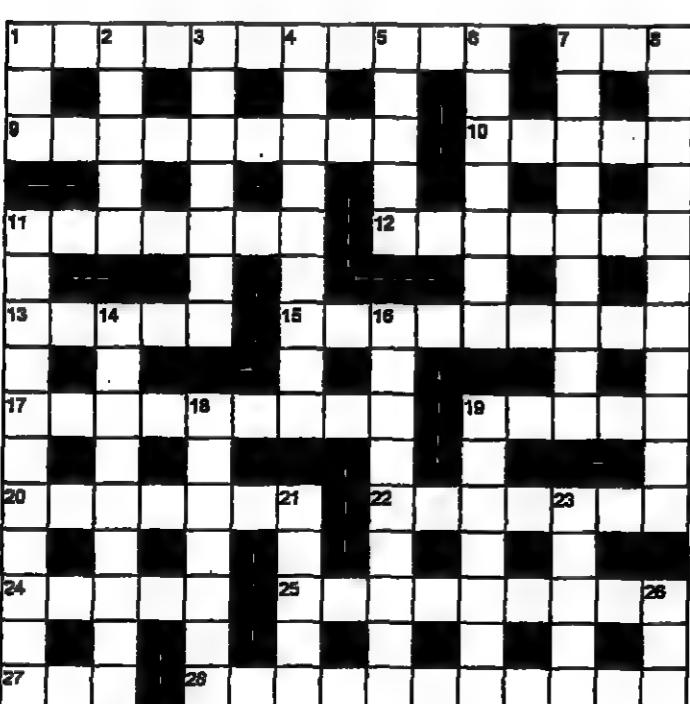
LAST WORD

Lord Good, Scottish Tory; George Dick, virologist; Pauline Jacques, author and illustrator. Page 19

Arms sales: PoWr lost pay floods

Süddeutsche Zeitung Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,547



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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Shoreham, East Sussex, 24°C (75°F); lowest day temp: Lough Fee, Co Tyrone, 14°C (57°F); highest rainfall: Edzellmuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 0.66in; highest sunshine: Torquay, Devon, 13.9hr

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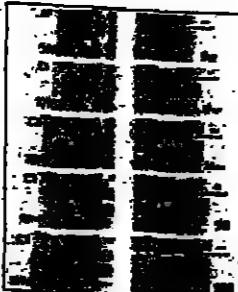
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How euro will bridge Atlantic monetary gap
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EDUCATION

Professor hits the right notes with a summer school
PAGE 32

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Christie enraged by decision to halve drug bans
PAGES 34-40

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 38, 39

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997

US bank acquires DSS buildings for £400m

By CARL MORTISHED

THE Department of Social Security is to sell its entire property portfolio, worth £400 million, to Partnership Property Management (PPM), a consortium led by Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank.

The Private Finance Initiative project, known as Prime, was conceived by the last Government and given the go-ahead yesterday by Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security. It is the largest single real estate transaction in the UK, covering more than 17 million sq ft in more than 700 buildings.

PPM was chosen from a shortlist of two bidders, its rival being Mapley Holdings, a group that includes Nations Bank and Burford, the property company. PPM comprises the Whitehall Street Real Estate Partnership, a fund run by Goldman Sachs, Amec, the builder, Berkeley Group, the developer, Vines Management, Compass Management and Richard Ellis, the surveyors.

Prime is expected to be followed by similar government property deals. Deloitte & Touche, which advised the DSS on this transaction, is working on a proposal for a £2.5 billion private finance scheme covering 450 properties for the Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise. A competition is underway to redevelop the Chelsea Barracks into residential housing.

Prime could revolutionise the way the property industry does business, with major public companies seeking similar deals. Manesh Chande, chief executive of Prime, said: "We do intend to become a substantial business and bid for other projects."

The deal marks the first contract in the DSS's Change programme to be awarded since Labour came to power. In the next few days, Ms Harman is expected to invite final bids for its Impact contract, which will privatisate medical services for the Benefits Agency. Four consortia—including teams led by Andersen Consulting and Capita Group—are in line for the privatisation, which is worth in excess of £500 million.

Ms Harman is also expected to drop the privatisation of the child benefit distribution system—Prospect—although there will be a new scheme to computerise the service. Projects involving small computer systems and the use of outside consultants are also expected to be approved.

The DSS, which employs

Commentary, page 23

Capital bid for Virgin transmitted to MMC

By JASON NISSE

Two years later after saying that it needed the extra licence to make the AM franchise work. Bringing Virgin and Capital together would give them a combined 43 per cent share of the audience for radio in London and 62.7 per cent of the advertising of leading brands in the capital.

However, David Mansfield, who takes over as Capital's chief executive in October, had vowed to disband Capital's media-selling organisation, which will cut its dominant position in the advertising market. He said buying Virgin was essential for the development of digital commercial radio, which Capital wants to launch on Virgin's national AM franchise.

Capital and Virgin said yesterday they thought the bid

raised no competition issues. Will Whithorn, a director of Virgin, said: "For the OFT to refer this to the MMC, but handle the BA/American deal with kid gloves, is amazing."

However, rival radio operators welcomed the move. Chris Parry, chief executive of XFM, the alternative rock station launching next month, said:

"This is a great day for radio. I have never been comfortable with this bid, which would have brought Capital back up to the extremely powerful position it held until the mid-1980s."

The MMC ruling will show whether any further consolidation of the radio market will be allowed, with the expectation that some of the larger radio stations in the big regional cities may merge.

ICL to put Tube in smartcard age

By JASON NISSE

LONDON TRANSPORT will today announce that it has

awarded a Private Finance Initiative project to replace bus and Underground tickets with new smartcards to a consortium led by ICL, the computer group, and EDS, the Texan consultancy.

The award of the contract, called Prestige, and believed to be worth more than £500 million, comes at the end of a complex two-year tendering process that has led to the project being more than six months late.

The ICL/EDS team includes Cubic Corporation and WS Atkins and is called TranSys. It was the only bidder left after the withdrawal of three other groups, one led by IBM, another led by BT and the third made up of

Olivetti, Andersen Consulting, KPMG and National Express.

TranSys has vowed to revolutionise people's travel to work. Instead of the current paper tickets that are put through machines that operate the barriers on the Tube network, there will be plastic cards with computer chips that will be scanned in the same way tills operate in supermarkets.

London Underground hopes that the smartcards will speed up ticket sales, cut fraud and improve information about customer travel patterns.

The Prestige project was caught up in the excessive bureaucracy that has dogged the PFI and its award will come as a great relief to both the Treasury and the Department of Transport.

City angry at BT's silence over MCI merger

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR PETER BONFIELD, chief executive of BT, further angered the City by maintaining a wall of silence over the company's troubled £12 billion merger with MCI, the US telecoms company.

Sir Peter yesterday refused to reveal details of the review that BT started after MCI's profits warning early this month, although he acknowledged that institutional investors have told BT they had lost confidence in its management.

Analysts and investors had expected news of the review with yesterday's publication of first-quarter results. But the

reluctance to calm the increasing clamour for information triggered fresh frustration and further trimmed BT's share price. It fell 4p to 426p. More than £5 billion has been wiped from the company's value since the profits warning threw into doubt the wisdom of the MCI merger.

Sir Peter declined to say what price renegotiations were under way or even how much scope there is to re-think the contract. He said the deal is a complex merger arrangement that is "interpreted by lawyers, but we are looking at the whole situation and the

contract is part of that". Sir Peter indicated that everything was on the table in the joint review which could be complete by the end of this month or early next month.

Sir Peter conceded that institutions had warned the company of a loss of confidence. He said: "Some of them have certainly said that." He said he could "understand their concern", but he denied he had considered resigning over the issue.

It is possible that MCI could counter any price renegotiation by saying BT, whose chairman is Sir Iain Vallance,

is less robust itself after changes to advance corporation tax and imposition of the windfall tax.

Richard Jones, telecoms analyst with Yamaichi, said: "This is very frustrating for everyone. We don't know what they are trying to renegotiate or even if they can or can't renegotiate." Mr Jones predicted another slump in the share price when the stock goes ex-dividend in a couple of weeks.

BT's pre-tax profits for the first quarter climbed 1.4 per cent to £881 million.

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No details: Sir Iain Vallance, left, and Peter Bonfield



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Who's in and who's out at the Bank of England

A tall, stooped figure, David Clement could by appearance as easily be an Oxford don, and an expert in something deeply esoteric to boot, as one of the leading investment bankers of his generation. While most corporate financiers tend to be brash, domineering figures, he comes over as mild-mannered and reserved, even shy.

But there is no mistaking his ability. He made his name in the previous Government's privatisation programme, having worked on the first of these, the 1984 sale of British Telecom shares, and then on other big share issues such as British Gas.

Mr Clement, who was schooled at Winchester, trained as a chartered accountant, after reading politics, philosophy and economics at Lincoln College, Oxford. At Oxford he gained a reputation as an athlete. A contemporary article in *The Times* named him the star of the Varsity freshmen's athletics match, where he was unbeaten in the 100m, 200m and 400m hurdles events.

He went on to get a Blue in athletics three years in a row and a Hurdle for Britain as a member of the 1968 junior international athletics team. These days his most strenuous exercise is sailing, a love he shares with Eddie George, the Bank Governor.

Mr Clement has the knack of inspiring loyalty in his subordinates and values it in others. He was known to have been upset at the abrupt departure of a colleague, Simon Robertson, formerly chairman of Kleinwort Benson. Mr Robertson left earlier this year after a row with Dresdner Bank, Kleinwort's

DAVID CLEMENT



German owner. But insiders at Kleinwort insist this is not the reason he has accepted the Bank's offer. Instead, he is thought to regard it as a significant advancement in any career in banking, especially if he eventually succeeds Mr George.

Says a former colleague: "He's much more pragmatic than many merchant bankers. You didn't have to sit through two or three-hour debating meetings. He could look at the forest and pick out the trees, which was extremely important."

"If you are stuck in the proverbial trench, who would you like to have at your back? He would be top of my list."

MARTIN WALLER

Gavyn Davies, head of international economics at Goldman Sachs, was floated as a candidate for Deputy Governor as soon as the Bank reforms were unveiled shortly after the election, and was considered likely to succeed Eddie George as Governor.

But his Labour links seem ultimately to have been the stumbling block to his appointment to the Bank. For all his economic expertise, there were fears his appointment to a senior position at the Bank would be seen to undermine the Old Lady's newly won independence. There was also a hint that Eddie George and Mervyn King had objected to the idea that Mr Davies could be guaranteed the promotion to the Governor's job long before Mr George's contract expires next year.

Alongside Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News & Media, he was a high-profile Labour supporter in the City at a time when the Labour Party was desperate to attract City and business talent into the Government. His links with the party stretch back to a stint in the No 10 policy unit in the final days of the Callaghan Government.

More recently, he has acted as an informal adviser to Mr Brown while his wife, Sue Ny, is in charge of Mr Brown's office.

There is no doubt Mr Davies will still want to serve the Government in some form. His position as a partner of Goldman Sachs has ensured he is one of the highest paid economists in the City. But colleagues insist that money is not

GAVYN DAVIES



an issue, suggesting that he has already made more than enough to enjoy a comfortable future. After all, this was the man who could afford to spend several million on a new home in Devon after pouring millions into the now defunct *Sunday Correspondent* newspaper.

Mr Davies could well take a post on the new Council of Economic Advisers, which is expected to be unveiled in the next couple of months — a position that he may be able to hold part-time. But for the moment, Mr Davies remains silent about his options, far happier talking about the prospects for his beloved Southampton Football Club.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Mervyn King's promotion to Deputy Governor of the Bank of England establishes him as the favourite to take over the governorship from Eddie George. At 49, he is almost ten years younger than Mr George and is probably prepared to wait should Mr George win an extension to his contract next year.

Mr King seems to possess most of the requisite skills for the Governor's post, now the Bank has sole responsibility for setting monetary policy. He is widely respected in the City, where he has a reputation second only to Mr George as an inflation hawk.

His academic background ensures that he has the technical expertise which, as Mr George explained to the Treasury Select Committee last week, is now a vital requirement for members of the monetary policy committee.

But Mr King is also a skilled media performer who provides a slick and entertaining presentation to accompany the publication of the Bank's rather austere *Quarterly Inflation Report*. The ability to sell often controversial interest rate movements to City and country will be an increasingly important part of the Governor's job in the future.

Mr King joined the Bank in 1990 from the London School of Economics, where he had established his reputation as a tax specialist. His radical ideas on simplifying the income tax structure were used by Nigel Lawson as the basis for the 1988 Budget, while he also provided much of the early thinking behind the creation of tax-

MERVYN KING



exempt special savings account (Tessa).

Mr King is an avid Aston Villa fan, despite having gone to school in neighbouring Wolverhampton. His hopes of becoming a non-executive director of Aston Villa were vetoed by Mr George, a rugby fan, although he has taken the position of vice-president. Mr King, who lives in Notting Hill, West London, joked yesterday that he would like to spend more time pursuing his other interests — including music, tennis and reading European History — which he did "regularly before the inflation target was introduced".

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Worry over Airbus's date for unification

By OLIVER AUGUST

AIRBUS, the European consortium that includes British Aerospace, is likely to miss its 1999 deadline for becoming a single corporate entity, according to Jürgen Schrempp, the Daimler-Benz chairman.

In January, the four Airbus partners signed a memorandum of understanding scheduling a transfer of ownership for 1999, but the election of a Socialist Government in France in May has called the future of the aircraft maker into question.

Herr Schrempp said: "Airbus will attain company status, but I cannot tell you when I am not sure it will happen in 1999."

The new French Government and Aerospace, the Airbus partner in which it has a controlling stake, have retracted two concessions made in January. Aerospace is refusing to transfer assets to Airbus as agreed in the memorandum.

The French Government has also halted privatisation of Aerospace, which is a pre-requisite to creating a single corporate entity, according to BAE and Daimler. Herr Schrempp said: "I am a believer in private companies, not in state-controlled companies."

BAE said: "It is possible that the deadline might slip."

Glaxo Wellcome nurses hefty decline in shares

By PAUL DURMAN

RAPIDLY rising sales of treatments for HIV, migraine and asthma will enable Glaxo Wellcome to overcome the loss of patent protection on its biggest selling drug and achieve earnings targets for the next three years, the company claimed yesterday.

But the group's upbeat presentation of half-year results was not enough to prevent its shares falling 38p to 129p as the City responded to a warning that profit margins would fall this year.

The company reported a 2 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits, to £152 billion, on sales of £4.1 billion. It said the impact of the strong pound obscured its progress, and that underlying sales grew 8 per cent.

Glaxo Wellcome gave warning that margins will fall from 37.5 per cent around 35 per cent this year, largely because of the increased marketing costs of new products such as Zyban, an anti-smoking drug, and Naramig, a migraine treatment.

The company is enjoying an unexpected boost from the complex legal disputes among the companies that intend to produce an unbranded rival to Zantac, the ulcer drug that lost its US patent protection last



Sir Richard Sykes, left, chairman, and John Coombe, finance director, yesterday

week. The disputes have so far prevented the appearance of a competitor to Zantac, enabling Glaxo Wellcome to continue selling \$5 million (£3 million) of the drug each day.

Novopharm, a Canadian company, had a deal with Glaxo Wellcome that it hoped would allow it to start selling the first generic version three weeks ago, but it was blocked by a last-minute legal intervention. Genpharm also claims exclusive rights to the

first generic version.

The loss of Zantac's patent protection in the UK and Germany contributed to a 12 per cent fall in its sales, to £80 million. However, Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo Wellcome's chairman and chief executive, said the £891 million of sales respiratory drugs, including Serevent, Flutide and Ventolin, meant this had now replaced gastro-intestinal as the company's biggest therapeutic area. Zantac represent-

ed 43 per cent of group sales as recently as 1994.

Sir Richard said Epiriv, the anti-HIV drug, had more than doubled sales, to £199 million, and was "one of the fastest growing products that we've ever had".

Glaxo Wellcome is paying an interim dividend of 15p a share — unchanged because of its intention to rebalance the interim and final payments. It will be paid as a foreign income dividend.

UK faces gruelling contest for Toyota

By PHILIP BASSITT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is competing with ten other European countries for Toyota's new manufacturing plant, the Japanese car company said yesterday.

Toyota's statement on the number of EU member states battling for the company's planned new production centre for its small European car is the first indication of the daunting scale of the fight. The Government, local authorities and component supply businesses in the UK have to secure what will be one of Europe's key inward investment prizes.

Toyota is planning to build a European factory to manufacture its high-volume small car specifically designed for Europe.

Yesterday, Iwao Okijima, Toyota's executive vice-president, said: "There are more than 10 countries from which we have received invitations to site the new plant. Mr Okijima said that the company was carrying out detailed studies of the cost of each proposal, taking into account infrastructure such as transport, the quality of the workforce and the 'welcome' each country would give to the new plant.

Toyota is looking at more than 30 sites in Europe for its plant, which will add to the factory at Burnaston, Derbyshire, and its engine plant in North Wales. Toyota managers visited Burnaston yesterday.

Toyota wants to sell 600,000 vehicles in Europe, boosting its market share by a third, as part of plans to push its overall sales worldwide from 4.9 million now to 6 million by the start of the next century. Toyota sold 412,000 vehicles in Europe last year, and plans to sell 450,000 this year.

The National Association of Pension Funds said it would be "disappointed" if the opinion were adopted by the European Court when the issue is reviewed in autumn.

Boulton cuts jobs

ROYAL DOULTON, the china company, is to shed 330 jobs in Stoke-on-Trent. The company blamed the cuts on difficult trading conditions created by the strong pound.

Royal Doulton currently employs 4,800 people around Stoke and about 7,000 worldwide. Patrick Wenger, chief executive, said: "The strong pound has created a difficult worldwide trading climate and it is essential that we aim to keep production, sales and stocks in balance." More redundancies are likely.

Volvo sells Renault stake

VOLVO, the Swedish auto manufacturer, has sold its 11 per cent stake in Renault, the French vehicle maker, for £500 million. The shares were bought by UBS, which will sell them on to institutional investors. Volvo's stake was the legacy of a failed merger attempt in 1993. Since 1994, Volvo has pursued a divestment programme that has so far raised more than £3.5 billion. Some of the money has been spent on share buybacks and research and development to freshen Volvo's image.

BIC acquires Sheaffer

BIC, the French ball-point pen company, has acquired Sheaffer, the US pen manufacturer, for an undisclosed sum. The deal to buy Sheaffer, which has annual sales of more than \$30 million (£30 million), is the latest in a series of BIC acquisitions. Last October it bought A Hauser, the German felt-tip pen maker. Bruno Bich, the BIC chairman, said: "Sheaffer is a world-renowned brand, synonymous with high quality writing instruments."

Fund manager is sold

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT, the life insurer, has agreed to sell Prolific, its investment management subsidiary, to Aberdeen Asset Management in return for a 41 per cent stake in the company. Aberdeen is issuing 58.4 million new shares to pay for the deal, which values Prolific at £5.5 million. The move nearly trebles Aberdeen's funds under management to £1 billion. This includes £7.2 billion of ScotProv's life and unit-linked funds. Aberdeen shares rose 12p, to 107p.

BTR's Brazilian deal

HAWKER, BTR's batteries business, is expanding into South America by paying \$72 million (£43.9 million) for the industrial batteries division of Microlife, a Brazilian company. BTR said the acquisition of Saturna would give the group "a commanding presence in South America's fast-growth market", with a local manufacturing operation. The company will trade as Saturna Hawker Sistemas de Energia. Hawker was acquired as part of Hawker Siddeley in 1991.

Berisford buys in Spain

BERISFORD, the engineering group, is to pay £21.8 million cash for Samnic, Spain's leading food service equipment manufacturer. However, up to £2 million of the price is to be deferred until June 1998 and depends on profit performance. Berisford will, however, assume a net cash balance of £5 million. Samnic has eight distribution branches throughout Spain and made a pre-tax profit of £2.6 million from turnover of £12.6 million.

Employers face £10bn bill as Europe rules on pensions

By MARIONNE CUPPITT

THE prospect of UK employers having to pay a £10 billion pensions bill to their part-time workers has moved a step closer after a provisional ruling in the European Court of Justice.

The advocate-general of the court has expressed an opinion that part-time workers' pensions should be backdated to April 8, 1976. This would initially affect 100,000 cases.

British law currently allows the advocates-general to make recommendations to the court, which then has to rule on the case.

General's comments as a victory for part-time workers, who are mostly women, and those who have fought for their rights. The advocate-general said no national law should prevent the rights from being retrospective to 1976.

The National Association of Pension Funds said it would be "disappointed" if the opinion were adopted by the European Court when the issue is reviewed in autumn.

Employers face a £10 billion bill as Europe rules on pensions

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Welcome to the great government sell-off. Goldsmith Sachs may be the proud new owner of a motley portfolio of properties inhabited by the Department of Social Security, but there are many more ugly offices still to come.

The estimate is that by the year 2001, around 65 per cent of the government estate could have been "priced", as this variation of privatisation is now to be known.

The Inland Revenue will be one of the first to follow the DSS.

A feasibility study has just been completed into the prospects for disposing of its vast portfolio and optimists are talking about a cheque for £500 million soon heading towards the tax man to bolster the less rounded results of self-assessment.

There can be little doubt that the chaps at the Revenue will be better employed seeking after tax avoiders than looking after 350 assorted buildings which comprise some 14 million square feet of space. And after the Revenue, Customs & Excise should not be far behind.

There is also a large tranche of Cheltenham which could soon be seeking buyers. Although we can only guess what goes on there, GCHQ takes up 117 acres of the sedate town and an imaginative developer could certainly provide the spires with a more salubrious working environment than they currently have on the site.

If the bonus-conscious partners of Goldsmiths see money to be made from taking over govern-

ment properties, it is to be expected that the sums do indeed look enticing. Enthusiasm for "priming" is growing, and some high-powered consortia are taking shape in bid for the next contracts.

The property market is gaining strength at the moment, and investors are realising that there are enticing yields to be had from those buildings which are dismally denominated as secondary by honest estate agents.

The attractions of each deal will vary, depending on the split between freehold and leasehold sites and the scope for redevelopment. The Cheltenham Pensioners could find themselves sent flying as spiffy types in pin-striped make a dash for the chance of turning a unique central London site into new and expensive housing.

But the question which has yet to be determined is how the Government will account for all the extra cash which could come rolling in as it allows others to assume the responsibility of landlord. Resort to off-balance sheet funding takes government into dangerous areas. The proceeds cannot simply be allowed to flow through into helping the Government balance its public spending

ideals with its budgetary constraints.

The accountants in Brussels are keeping a careful watch on how the proceeds of priming are to be handled, for they still have their eyes fixed on the Maastricht criteria even if few in Britain are now focusing on those demands.

There will be no chance of the British Government doing with its unwound offices what Herr Kohl was prevented from doing with Germany's gold reserves.

Still no answer from BT

The board of BT continues to demonstrate a breathtaking disregard for the sensibilities of its shareholders. Yesterday it refused to give any indication whether it was able to renegotiate the terms of its deal with MCI or whether it would press on with shelving our £12 billion of investors' money on a

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

price rather than none at all.

For Sir Iain Vallance, who followed his father into the Post Office, there may still be problems in coping with the needs of shareholders, but if he does not do so now, he may face a rebellion. And pointing out that it was Sir Peter Bonfield and not he who has sat on the MCI board will not save his neck.

By George, a new man for Old Lady

Congratulations are due to Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England held his ground under early attack from the new Government and now appears to have secured his position.

Yesterday, he looked triumphant as he presented his two new deputy governors, neither of whom would be likely to challenge him if he decided, as has been indicated, that he might like to stay at the Bank for another term rather than retire to leafy Dulwich.

The spectre of Gavin Davies was nowhere to be seen in Threadneedle Street. Had all the gossips been imagining that the bearded millionaire economist

was destined to be the next Governor?

Davies, to be fair, has maintained a public silence on the subject throughout, but jungle drums have rarely played more closely to the same music sheet, which declared that he was only interested in being deputy if a rapid promotion was on offer.

The likelihood is that Chancellor Gordon Brown was happy for that message to be played out so that he could judge the response to it. That came loud and clear: Davies would have been judged too close to Government to be seen as an independent voice at the Bank. His work for Labour was not the only obstacle. Even the broadest mind would have some difficulty in assuming he could remain completely untouched by the fact that his partner, Sue Nye, is an indispensable member of Mr Brown's team.

Got a light?

HOWARD HODGSON, the dismissed chief executive, has ruled himself out as the bidder for Ronson, the lighter company that nearly went down in flames. So who might want it? How about Stephen Hinchliffe, fresh from his courtroom victory over Price Waterhouse. Now that he can get his hands on his assets again, the man behind the Facia fiasco would have the audacity to try to link Ronson with the Colibri lighter business he still owns.

Confident TI to spend £400m on acquisitions

By OLIVER AUGUST

TI GROUP will spend up to £400 million on bolt-on acquisitions by next March. The engineering and aerospace company said a number of deals were under negotiation but ruled out a move to diversify beyond existing activities.

TI reported a fall in interim pre-tax profits to £112 million in the six months to June 30 from £123 million in the first half of the previous year, when there was an exceptional gain of £20 million.

Despite the decline in profits the results were generally ahead of City expectations. However, TI shares fell 24.5 p to 543p amid profit-taking.

Logica acquires Irish design firm

By FRASER NELSON

LOGICA, the computer services company, is to double its exposure to the telecoms sector through the £15 million acquisition of Aldiscon, an Irish software company that designs systems for mobile phones.

Logica shares, which have plunged from 10.62 to 690p this year, rose 50p to 750p. The rise came in spite of the company's £25.2 million rights issue, whereby 9.13 million shares are being placed with institutions at 605p apiece on a one-for-seven basis.

Dr Martin Read, the chief executive of Logica, said: "The acquisition is absolutely bang in line with our strategy because it is in telecoms and it will all be value-added stuff. The company has got repeatable

sterling remains at around the DM43 level.

Dowty, the landing gear and aerospace systems specialist, showed a 23 per cent lift in sales, reflecting the buoyant mood in the aerospace sector at the moment after several years of slow growth.

John Crane, the mechanical seals and polymers arm, produced a 2 per cent rise in sales in what TI described as a "challenging" market. The market still contracting at around 4 per cent.

Bundy Group, which manufactures fluid systems for the automotive and refrigeration industries, saw an increase of 8 per cent.

Tim Bennett, engineering analyst at Morgan Stanley, said: "Aerospace was even better than expected whilst Crane was disappointing."

Mr Bennett said he would probably make a slight upwards revision to his earnings forecast for the group on the back of the performance by the aerospace business.

The interim dividend is increased to 5.5p a share from 4.75p, due on October 7, payable from earnings of 16.1p a share, up 10 per cent.

Sir Christopher Lewington, chairman, said: "Our global spread and balance saw the group achieve a strong first-half result with organic profit growth of 15 per cent, improved margins and good cash flow. We go forward with strong order books, are well positioned to make further bolt-on acquisitions and have confidence in our ability to generate continued growth."

After winning a £10 million contract in France to prepare computers for European monetary union and work on the millennium computer problem, Logica's order book is 26 per cent up on last year. Logica has also won a £6 million contract from the Bank of Turkey and a £14 million outsourcing contract from Polaris, the insurer.

NatWest Business Accounts Interest Rates

NatWest announces the following interest rates effective from 1 August 1997:

Savers Reserve Account		
Gross Interest per cent	Balance	Gross Compounded Annual Rate [†]
4.75%	£250,000 and above	4.84%
4.62%	£160,000 - £249,999	4.70%
4.50%	£25,000 - £99,999	4.58%
4.00%	£2,000 - £24,999	4.05%
3.50%	£500 - £1,999	3.55%
2.25%	£0 - £499	2.27%

[‡] Where appropriate, the rate will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid before deduction by means where appropriate. Subject to the required minimum holding time, interest will be paid gross.

[†] Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return on your deposits if the interest payments are retained in the account.

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Lasmo on the lookout for Middle East opportunities

By CARL MORTISHAW

LASMO, the oil exploration company, is looking for opportunities in Iran and the Caspian region. Joe Darby, chief executive, said the company is looking for a new area to add to its five core locations in the UK, Indonesia, North Africa, Pakistan and Venezuela.

The oil company yesterday announced net profits of £26 million for the first six months of the year, down from £38 million in the previous year which included a £23 million disposal profit.

Mr Darby said he is seeking

rich Azerbaijan as an attractive area.

Shares in the oil company rose 10p yesterday after news that production would increase to 250 million barrels per day by 2001. Mr Darby said that the forecast related to known oilfields and took no account of exploration prospects.

Earnings before exceptional items rose from 1.6p to 2.1p per share, but Lasmo is again not paying an interim dividend.

Tony Hill (left), managing director, and Gerald Richardson, his deputy at Surrey Free Inns, which made annual pre-tax profits of £2.3 million (£1.2 million). Earnings were 18.8p (11.6p). A 1.6p final dividend makes a total of 2.85p, up 27%. Surrey is to be renamed SFI Group.

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Allied Irish leaps ahead

FROM EILEEN McCABE IN DUBLIN

ALLIED Irish Banks, which recently became the first Irish company with a market capitalisation of more than £15 billion (£4.4 billion), yesterday reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £12.24 million, from £12.01 million, in the half-year to the end of June.

Tom Mulcahy, chief executive, said that the strong performance – coupled with the acquisition of Dauphin

Bank continued to benefit from investment in new technology and increased cross-selling of financial products.

First Maryland Bancorp, the bank's US subsidiary, lifted pre-tax profit 10 per cent to £1.63 million despite higher provision for bad credit card debts.

The interim dividend was lifted 14 per cent, to 16.8p, due on September 24.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Bears dominant despite report from Schroders

STOCK MARKET bears giving warning of a crash have been undermined by a report from a leading merchant bank claiming that City fund managers need to spend £40 billion topping up their positions in blue chip shares.

The report from Schroders says that many institutions have missed out on the sharp gains enjoyed by banks and drug companies and risk further underperformance in their portfolios because of underweight positions in stocks like HSBC, up this year from £12.75 to £22.05, and SmithKline Beecham, up from £17.85 to £11.89.

Paul Walton, equity strategist at Schroders, says it will not be easy to reverse these sort of underweight positions.

Stock shortages and demand for domestic blue chips by US investors will make the task even more difficult. "Many funds have underperformed because they have been overweight in high-yielding stocks which looked good value but have lagged the index as it hit a succession of highs," he said.

Meanwhile, other brokers have been pointing out that some fund managers have already decided to call the top of the market after its record-breaking run this year.

UBS's fund management arm is known to have switched into cash more than a year ago fearing the market had run its course. Others, like Mercury Asset Management, have not been frightened to sell when they have been bid for stock, such as in the case of LVMH increasing its holding in Grand Metropolitan, down 61p to 598.2p.

But if the market keeps on going up, they may eventually be asked to justify such actions.

However, it was the bears who gained the upper hand yesterday as prices closed near their low for the day, having seen earlier gains wiped out. An early deficit of almost 50 points in the Dow Jones industrial average set the seal on a lacklustre performance that left the FTSE 100 index down 19.8 at 4,907.5 by the close. A total of 920 million shares changed hands.

ICI was impressing American fund managers overnight as the price raced up 31p to £10.07½ in London on the back of heavy buying on Wall Street. It has been giving them an update on the recent disposal of its bulk chemicals



TI Group's Sir Christopher Lewinton, right, and Martin Angle, finance director, saw the shares fall 24½p to 544½p

business and the acquisition of Unilever's speciality chemicals operation.

Dixons continued to go from strength to strength, rising 12p to 607½p, still excited by the Government's decision earlier this week to scrap the recommended retail price for electrical goods. Nick Babb at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker,

has lifted his target price from 600p to 700p and says the shares are undervalued against the rest of the sector. Airtours dropped 22p to 111.7½p after Merrill Lynch downgraded its recommendation from a "buy" to "hold". The broker is said to be worried that increases in capacity will erode margins.

There was a muted response

to the decline in half-year profits at Glaxo Wellcome, down 38p at £12.91½, even though the setback had already been widely anticipated. Brokers were disappointed with the performance of Pylorid, the replacement for its bestselling Zantac, and said the shares had started running ahead of events.

BT closed 40p lighter at 426½p after refusing to comment on the possibility of renegotiating the terms of its £23 billion merger with MCI after its recent profits warning.

Top-of-the-range profits news from TI Group failed to cut much ice with the City and the price came in for profit taking to end the day nursing a fall of 24½p to 544½p. The company, whose chairman is Sir Christopher Lewinton, has tried to distance itself from exporters, pointing out that it manufactures most of its products abroad. However, it admits that translating overseas profits back into a strong pound has cost it £7.6 million.

The referral of Capital Radio's £6.7 million bid for Virgin Radio left its shares 15p lower at 491p.

Logica raced up 60p to 750p after hitting the acquisition trail with the purchase of Aldiscon, the Irish provider of advanced network systems, for £51 million. The deal will be funded by a one-for-seven rights issue at 605p raising £2.2 million.

News of a bid approach

lifted Ronson 2½p to 21p. The troubled branded products group last month reported first-half losses of £2.2 million.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices suffered a sharp sell-off during the last hour of business. Dealers said there appeared to be no genuine reason for the sell-off. In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished 11½p down at 111½. In longer Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was 11½p off at 111½. In shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was three ticks easier at 110½.

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Big money: Luc Layec, the Belgian designer, centre, with replicas of his euro coins, which could be as dominant a force in world finance as the dollar

Euro will narrow monetary gap between US and Europe

The dollar will have its first real competitor since toppling sterling, C. Fred Bergsten says

The creation of a single currency will be the most important development in the international monetary system since the adoption of flexible exchange rates in the early Seventies. The dollar will have its first real competitor since it surpassed the pound as the world's dominant currency in the inter-war period. As much as \$1 trillion of international investment may shift from dollars to euros. Volatility between the world's key currencies will increase, requiring new forms of international cooperation if severe costs for the global economy are to be avoided.

The global economic roles of the European Union and the US are nearly identical. The EU accounts for about 31 per cent of world output and 20 per cent of world trade. The US provides about 27 per cent of global production and 18 per cent of world trade. The dollar's 40 to 60 per cent share of world finance far exceeds the economic weight of the US. The dollar's market share is three to five times that of the mark, the only European currency now used globally.

Inertia is a powerful force in international finance. For half a century, sterling retained a global role far in excess of Britain's economic strength. The dollar will probably remain the leading currency indefinitely. But the creation of the euro will narrow, and perhaps eventually close, the present monetary gap between the US and Europe. The dollar and euro are each likely to wind up with about 40 per cent of world finance, with about 20 per cent remaining for the yen, the Swiss franc, and minor currencies. The euro will probably be strong from its inception. The Maastricht treaty gives the European Central Bank (ECB) a mandate to ensure price stability. The ECB will place overwhelming emphasis on establishing its credibility as soon as possible. It will be especially costly of any depreciation of the euro's exchange rate and is likely to view euro appreciation as an early sign of success. The ECB will be the first central bank in history without a government looking over its shoulder.

The fiscal criteria of the Maastricht treaty are likely to be interpreted flexibly to enable EMU to start on time and to include the Club Med countries. The "growth and stability pact" to govern budget positions after start-up seems likely to have large loopholes. If unemployment remains high at start-up, the national governments will

deploy their only remaining macroeconomic tool — fiscal policy — in an expansionary direction. That would intensify the pressure on the ECB to pursue a tight monetary policy.

Combining such budgetary tolerance with a resolute ECB will strengthen the new currency. The proper analogy is with the Federal Reserve, which produced a sky-high dollar in the early Eighties in the face of Ronald Reagan's huge budget deficits, or the Bundesbank, which produced a strong mark in the face of large deficits in the early Nineties triggered by German reunification. The ECB is likely to out-Fed and out-Bundesbank in its most distinguished role models. Europe may not carry out the structural reforms needed to restore dynamic economic growth. But markets

prize stability more than growth, as indicated by the continued dominance of the dollar through extended periods of sluggish US economic performance.

America's external economic position will continue to raise doubts about the future stability and value of the dollar. The US has run current account deficits for the past 15 years. Its net foreign debt exceeds \$1 trillion and is rising annually by 15 to 20 per cent. In contrast, the EU has a roughly balanced international asset position and has run modest surpluses in its international accounts in recent years. On this important criterion, the EU is decidedly superior to the US. There will probably be a portfolio diversification of \$500 billion to \$1 trillion into euros, with most of this shift out of the dollar. This, in turn, will have a significant impact on exchange rates during a long transition period, driving the euro up and the dollar down substantially. The extent of the shift will depend on whether the supply of euros rises in tandem with demand. It will also depend on the relationship between the dollar and the European national currencies when the euro is issued. While most Europeans

want a strong euro, they also want to avoid an overvalued currency that deepens their economic difficulties. Many believe their national currencies are already overvalued in spite of recent substantial declines against the dollar. The only way they can avoid the dilemma is to depreciate the European national currencies further before the launch of the euro. The EU would then be able to set the initial exchange rate below the fundamental equilibrium exchange rate and the euro could appreciate modestly without undermining the long-term competitive position of the European economy.

Exchange-market developments from now until the early part of the next century could be a mirror image of the Eighties. During that period, US budget deficits soared. The elimination of Japanese exchange controls triggered a large portfolio diversification from yen into dollars. Fiscal tightening in Europe and Japan further enhanced the dollar's appreciation.

The opposite conditions may apply in the period ahead: further reductions in, or even the US budget deficit with European fiscal expansion and a large diversification out of the dollar triggered by the euro's creation.

The exchange rate between the euro and the dollar will pose a significant policy challenge. The US and the rest of the world should reject any attempt by Europe to substantially undervalue the euro's start-up rate. It would represent a blatant effort by Europe to export its high unemployment and enable the euro to become a strong currency without any significant cost to its competitive position.

France is running sizeable trade and current account surpluses, even adjusted for its high unemployment. Germany has the world's second-largest trade surplus region. By contrast, the US is the world's largest debtor nation.

Its trade and current account deficits are headed well above \$200 billion in 1997. These facts hardly suggest that European currencies are too strong or that the dollar is too weak. The G7, at a minimum, actively resist further European depreciations and dollar appreciation.

European countries pay relatively little attention to fluctuations in their national currencies vis-à-vis the dollar. But external events will play an even smaller role in the larger, unified European economy. Larger and even more frequent changes in the exchange rate of the euro could be accepted with equanimity. The EU might even promote greater currency movements to achieve external adjustment, as the US has done on occasion.

The EU and the US must recognise that prolonged misalignments would be costly for their economies too. The US learned this in the mid-Eighties when dollar overvaluation caused an extended recession in manufacturing and agriculture. Given the pivotal role of the EU and the US in global trade policy, such lapses would be extremely harmful to the world economy. A structured exchange-rate regime should be developed to manage the relationship that will emerge between the dollar and the euro.

The EU, Japan and the US should negotiate a target zone system with broad currency bands, perhaps 10 per cent on both sides of a nominal midpoint, that would avoid large current account imbalances and their attendant problems.

When President Giscard d'Estaing of France and Helmut Schmidt, the German Chancellor, decided to create the European monetary system in 1979, one of their goals was to foster a more stable global monetary regime. The creation of EMU could bring that vision closer to reality. However, in the absence of cooperation between the EU and the US, the euro could create instability. It is up to the governments of the two regions to achieve a smooth transition from the sterling and dollar-dominated monetary regimes of the 19th and 20th centuries to a stable dollar and euro system in the early 21st century.

The author is director of the Institute for International Economics (abridged from an article in Foreign Affairs, July-August 1997)

□ Anatole Kaltecky is away

Party poopers

UNLUCKY Bill Emmott, the editor of *The Economist*, is sending out invitations to a drinks party at the trendy Arts Club in Mayfair on September 9. Unfortunately this is the night of the annual dinner of the Trades Union Congress's general council at their conference in Brighton. Normally, such a gathering of the horny-handed sons of toil would not trouble the diaries of the London *haut monde*. But not under a Labour Government, however new.

Tony Blair will be at the TUC dinner. So will Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, as well

as David Blunkett, Margaret Beckett and a host of other ministers. Likewise CBI head Adair Turner, who will speak at the conference the following day, after the Archbishop of Canterbury of all people. This will leave *The Economist* party looking a little threadbare.

OLIVER BARING, who runs South African and African corporate finance business at SBC Warburg, has been limping around on crutches and in plaster. His injury, a shattered knee-cap, was sustained bravely on the sports field. Funny time of year to be playing rugby! Perhaps he slipped on the squash court? The perpetrator was Baring's 19-year-old son Esmond, nicknamed Badger, the weapon a croquet ball, accidentally launched at his father. "Croquet is an extremely dangerous game," Baring claims weakly.

Small print

A SMALL Kent printer is suing Reed Elsevier over the disputed use of the Minerva trademark. Sittingbourne Print has used the name on stationery and packaging sold to local farmers and the like for more than a decade now,



and registered the trade name in 1989. Minerva, originally the Etruscan goddess of arts and crafts, is also the name of a publishing imprint that was owned by Reed. Mike Hill, Sittingbourne's managing director, claims Reed is hiding behind a loophole, because his name is registered to cover paper and paper articles, and Reed claims this description does not cover books.

Bewilderment at the Anglo-Dutch publisher, because Minerva, the book list, was sold to Random House earlier this year. "They can't sue us because we don't own the imprint any more," claims a spokeswoman. Hill insists his David-and-Goliath fight will continue. "It's infringing a registered trademark — I have an absolute exclusive right to use it. I would like to come to a commercial arrangement."

Phone home

IF YOU are lying on a beach in Eilat, the Gambia, Phuket or any other exotic destination and a Japanese businessman

Headhunt

IF THERE really is a mummified pygmy in a bank vault at NatWest, he or she must be well placed for the job of heading NatWest Markets. Two more senior staff are leaving, to join the syndicated finance team at Credit Suisse First Boston. Grant Johnson, a managing director at NatWest Markets, takes on the same job title and becomes head of loan syndications. He is bringing with him David Slade as a director. Also joining CSFB is Richard Anerbury, as a managing director charged with expanding the origination and acquisition finance team within the division. He arrives from the Bank of America in Chicago.

FROM Mervyn King's brief blog, and a rare attempt at humour from the Bank of England: "He would like to spend more time reading European history, listening to music and playing tennis, which he did regularly before the inflation target was introduced."

plonks himself down on the next sun lounger, carefully checks his beach bag for a name tag. If he is Eisuke Sakakibara, get him to call the office. Sakakibara is a powerful Japanese Finance Ministry official, and rumours that he has been spotted in Tokyo sparked turmoil on Japanese bond markets. He was supposed to be on holiday, so his unscheduled reappearance could only mean action on interest rates, dealers surmised. The ministry in vain insisted that he was out of the country, but would not say where. "He is not in such places as New York, Washington or Europe," said a source. Doesn't narrow it down much, does it?

MARTIN WALLER



"You are held in a queue — your call will be answered in a few weeks. You are held in a..."

Dominic Walsh on Forte's shake-up

Granada opens the door on a radical shift in hotel policy

Picture the scene. A disgruntled hotel guest goes up to the reception desk and asks to see the manager. "Um, we don't have a manager, sir," comes the embarrassed reply:

A ridiculous notion? Not if you happen to be staying at a Forte hotel, where manager zones are already a reality.

Granada, which paid £3.9 billion for Forte 18 months ago, has scrapped the jobs of 148 general managers at hotels outside London and appointed 58 regional managers with responsibility for a cluster of between two and six hotels each. In Stratford-upon-Avon, for example, the Forte Posthouse is now run as a single business alongside Alveston Manor and the Shakespeare, both part of the Forte Heritage brand.

Understandably, the move by the UK's largest hotel company has created something of a stir. At the extremes, it is viewed as either an inspirational rewriting of the hotelkeepers' manual or a cynical cost-cutting exercise that paves the way for a wholesale sell-off of assets.

The second theory is given some credence by Granada's decision in May quietly to put a package of 13 hotels, most of them Heritage, up for sale with a £42 million price tag. It is understood that another dozen have already been earmarked for disposal and a number of industry observers believe the brand's days within the company are numbered.

"Anyone who thinks this is

going to improve standards for the customer is in cloud-cuckoo-land," said one industry consultant. "It is quite simply a short-term attack on the cost base and that's not something you do if you're a long-term player in a market. I'm convinced Heritage and Meridien will go the way of Exclusive within two years."

One former Forte executive confirmed that further big disposals were inevitable, but cited the controversial £100 million profit improvement plan promised by Granada at the height of the Forte bid as the biggest factor in the removal of general managers.

"There were quite a lot of savings to be made from cutting corporate head office costs and administration, and Granada assumed the same waste would be found in the creation. The problem is that the hotels have never been overstuffed. The wage bill was already at the lower end of the industry average and there was little or no fat to cut."

He added: "They claim the £100 million is in the bag, but if you buy something for £3.9 billion you can persuade people of whatever you want. The reality is that they have struggled to achieve it and Travelodge — there is no doubt

things have slipped at some Heritage hotels."

Many observers believe that the problem centres on a lack of morale prevalent throughout Forte. On top of the changes at general manager level, all but three of the senior management team at the time of the takeover have left and that will shortly become two when Patrick Copeland, head of the worldwide hotel business, leaves in September. "There's total disarray at head office," said one insider. "Nobody disputed that big changes were needed, and we were prepared for a certain amount of upheaval. But they've taken it far too far and taken most of the guts out of the engine. The way they've done it has also upset people."

The

other profound change implemented by Granada was on room rates. After years of having uniform tariffs across brands, Forte now charges the highest rate it thinks it can get in any given location. In its roadside Travelodge brand this has meant moving from a standard rate of £36.50 per room to one that ranges from £34.95 to £55.95. The result has been a drop in occupancy to just 63 per cent at the interim stage compared with more than 80 per cent at its big competitor, Whitbread-owned Travel Inn, which charges a single rate of £36.50 outside London. Occupancy in the UK as a whole was more or less static, and advances in turnover compared poorly with most competitors as what is generally recognised to be a boom time for Britain's hoteliers.

One insider said: "They hiked up the prices last April then boasted about it. One or two big customers got a bit upset by this and moved some of their business elsewhere."

But analysts pointed to June's interim profits as a reflection of the success of Granada's policy. The hotel division as a whole improved turnover by just 3 per cent to £529 million, but pre-tax profits leapt an impressive 58 per cent to £116 million.

The general view in the City is reasonably positive, although doubts over TV advertising revenues have kept Granada's share price well below its peak, despite a rally in the past few days on the back of American buying.

Another leisure analyst said that Gerry Robinson, Granada's chairman, and Charles Allen, chief executive, are "doing what they did with programme-making and challenging the consensus opinion. That tends to upset a lot of people, but it doesn't mean they shouldn't do it. It's too early to say whether it'll work, but by challenging the consensus now they may be creating the consensus of the future".



The Shakespeare is run alongside two other Forte hotels in Stratford-upon-Avon

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THE TIMES UNIT THIS INFORMATION

Hot beats best heard under a duvet of mud

NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair hears Dreadzone, laid-back heroes of summer festivals, come unstuck in the warm and dry

DREADZONE
Biological Radio
(Virgin 7243 8 44408, £13.99)
IF THERE is one group that can legitimately claim to have captured the sound of the modern British summer it is Dreadzone. Having already appeared at more festivals than any other act this year, they have perfected a balmy mixture of reggae and techno bathed in a warm glow of wholemeal spirituality that is the perfect palliative for ears buffeted by extremes of rock'n'roll grandstanding and feet suffering from muddy boot syndrome.

But the air of relaxed bonhomie that produces that all-important feelgood factor on stage can sound a trifle woolly on disc, and there are several meandering instrumental tracks towards the end of *Biological Radio*, with ominously vague titles such as *Heat the Pot* and *Dream Within a Dream*, that are little more than extended waffles. Elsewhere, on songs including *The Lost Tribe* and *Earth Angel*, they explore their mung-bean philosophy ("I believe in love/I believe in evolution") with good-natured enthusiasm and plenty of clattering, world music percussion.

But with so little substance, and nothing to match the sprightly

tunefulness of last year's hit, *Little Britain*, the album's appeal is likely to prove more of a holiday romance than a long-lasting affair.

SON VOLT
Straightaways
(Warner Bros. 9362-46518 £15.49)

THE chorus of critical acclaim that greeted Wilco's album *Being There* earlier this year ("The new *Exile On Main St*" — Everyone) has naturally turned the spotlight in the direction of *Straightaways* by Son Volt, the "other" group to emerge from the ashes of the influential but unsung Illinois band Uncle Tupelo.

If the resulting glare proves, at times, to be a little too searching for comfort, then that is because the songs of Son Volt's singer and leader Jay Farrar do not have quite the same breadth of vision or obvious sense of mission as those written by his former Uncle Tupelo partner Jeff Tweedy for the Wilco album.

But what Farrar has got instead is a classic country-rock voice, which he applies to a fund of wonderfully crafted songs squarely located in an American roots music tradition that stretches from Gram Parsons to the Jayhawks.

"From Memphis to New

Orleans/In and out of railroad dreams/You're out there it seems, passing by," Farrar sings in *Crescent*, a slow, lilting song effortlessly graced with mournful pedal steel and cascading acoustic guitar breaks. With fiddle, banjo and harmonica augmenting the unplugged, guitar-band sound, the album embraces good-natured, down-the-line rockers (*Caryatid Easy*, *Picking up the Signal*) alongside darker spiritual laments such as *Been Set Free*, with an old-fashioned air of authority that is rare among artists of his relatively youthful vintage.

D'NOTE
D'Note
(VC Recordings 7243 8 44528 £11.49)

THERE is a generation of master musicians now emerging in Britain that would doubtless have ended up playing straight jazz or fusion had they not spent their formative years immersed in the sounds and social life of the dance/club/rave scene. Instead, players and producers such as Roni Size of Reprazent and Tom Jenkinson of Squarepusher have gravitated towards drum and bass, a form of musical minimalism that offers virtually unlimited scope for spectacular displays of rhythmic ingenuity.

About a decade older than Size and Jenkinson, Mat Winn of D'Note is another of this breed, but one with a more rounded musical portfolio. On his third album, he combines "proper" piano and flute



The relaxed bonhomie that produces that all-important feelgood factor on stage becomes a trifle woolly on disc for Dreadzone

playing with the fleet percussive undercurrents and ambient pauses of drum and bass to stunning effect. The svelte soul-jazz singing of P.Y. Anderson, who features on four of the nine tracks, is the icing on the cake. Her performance on the single *Waiting Hopefully*, is a particular treat, and the arrangement, which allows the shuffling instrumental accompaniment simply to melt away when the chorus arrives — a complete reversal of normal procedure — is typical of

this album's understated, intelligent and sophisticated charm.

JAM & SPOON
Kaleidoscope
(Epic 487262 £15.99)

IN THESE days, when bits of various musical genres are routinely mixed and matched like pizza toppings, what separates great artists from the ditties is the strength of commitment to their particular groove.

The German production duo of

Jam El Mar and Mark Spoon, best known in this country for their dance hit *Right in the Night*, *Ball in Love with Music*, display a shamelessly opportunistic approach on *Kaleidoscope*, flitting aimlessly from track to completely different track with no rhyme reason or underlying logic to bind the enterprise together.

There is a portentous guitar-driven piece called *Garden of Eden* unmistakably modelled on Pink Floyd's *Shine on You Crazy Dia-*

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1 (1) The Fat of the Land	Prodigy (XL Recordings)
2 (6) White on Blonde	Texas (Mercury)
3 (2) Spice	Spice Girls (Virgin)
4 (3) OK Computer	Radiohead (OK Computer)
5 (4) The Best of	Michael Jackson & Jackson 5 (Polygram TV)
6 (11) Sheryl Crow	Sheryl Crow (A&M)
7 (12) Do It Yourself	Seasiders (Geffen)
8 (5) Come Find Yourself	Fun Lovin' Criminals (Chrysalis)
9 (7) Heavy Soul	Paul Weller (Island)
10 (30) No Way Out	Puff Daddy & the Family (Puff Daddy)

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Compact discs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

Global warming

CELEA LIEBMAN,

REISINGER

World View

(Label Bleu

LBLC 0592 HM 83)

A "MAGICAL" maiden voyage for three open souls with mutual respect" is American saxophonist David Liebman's description of this free-flowing, gauzy album, recorded in France, but containing music drawn from a rich variety of sources: free jazz, world music, fusion and others.

All three participants have appropriately versatile musical pasts — French bassist Jean-Paul Celeni has worked with everyone from Pierre Boulez to John McLaughlin; Liebman with Miles Davis, Elvin Jones and his own wide-ranging rock and jazz bands; drummer Wolfgang Reisinger with the embodiment of arty European esoterism, the Vienna Art Orchestra — and they exploit all their experience in 12 three-way musical conversations ranging from collectively improvised pieces through tumbling, punchily informal workouts to scrabbly free-form jams. Fresh,

JAZZ ALBUMS

passionate, open-eared, this is world music in the best sense of the term.

ENRICO RAVA QUARTET
Animals
(Inak 8801 CD)

RECORDED in 1987 in Milan, this CD reissue collects Italian trumpeter Enrico Rava, guitarist Augusto Mancinelli, bassist Piero Di Castri and drummer Mauro Beigio on eight in-house originals that could all be roughly described as fusion (courtesy chiefly of Mancinelli's cascading, hard-edged runs and Beigio's thunderous attack).

Rava is, however, too mercurial a performer to fit easily into such a rigid category: the elegantly funky title track could almost be an out-take from an early 1970s Miles Davis album, but elsewhere, he rings the changes with stately ballads, hurling neobop and tumbling blues. A typically intelligent album.

CHRIS PARKER

IN CONCERT: Hard lessons for a soul ingenue; cheerful revision by a top tribute band; master class at the piano

She still needs some body



Shola Ama will learn that true soulfulness is about more than the frequent repetition of the word "baby"

already gone around the clock in soul's heyday. *Who's Loving My Baby* was a stylish exception, and the new single lent a little more muscle before You

Might Need Somebody, saved for last, brought the loudest cheer of the night.

PAUL SEXTON

Rhythms of a quieter age

A HOT, airless night in north London, filled with the sounds of passing police sirens and the street, was the unlikely setting for the first performance of pianist Huw Warren's new suite for string trio and jazz septet, *A Barrel Organ* (*Far From Home*).

Each of the sections of the piece is inspired by a photograph of town or city life more than half a century ago, and in an intriguing blend of folk, jazz and contemporary composition each brings these blurry images of a quieter age vividly to life. The opening part set a melancholy tone that persisted through much of the evening, with the strings providing a gloomy backdrop to the clarinet of Pete Whymper and the flageolet of Steve Buckley.

Throughout the suite such reflective sections were alternated with jumpy, angular melodies, redolent of barrel organ themes, and, over the

course of two sets, all equally unforgettable. In *Whistling Rufus* (not the ragtime tune of the same name) there was too little development of the underlying idea, throwing all the emphasis onto Warren's solos.

Fortunately, he was well served by his musicians, notably by saxophonist Julian Argüelles and drummer Martin France, both late additions to the line-up, but capable of providing a strong enough personal stamp to enliven the improvisational sections that fell between the cheerful tunes and mournful contemplations. Argüelles produced his strongest playing in *The Knocker-Upper*, a portrait of a Limehouse character who used a pea-shooter to wake the sleeping denizens of the area.

ALYN SHIPTON

Learning fun on the A-level train

THING suggests something demure, elegiac and, well, museum-like. Do not be deceived. Peter Long's genial repertory band, the Echoes of Ellington Orchestra, certainly does not skimp on the authenticity on, say, *Rockin' in Rhythm*, but neither does it treat Duke Ellington's music as a dust-covered artefact of interest only to drinkers of warm beer and collectors of well-worn 78s.

We will always have the records to cling to, of course, and in recent years there has been an outpouring of books that shed more light on the musician dubbed "the hot Bach". Some of the scholarly attention, in fact, threatens to become excessively solemn and reverential, as if Ellington really did learn his craft in Kōthen rather than the Cotton Club.

Long and his hard-blowing colleagues provide an important service by adding a whiff of perspiration and humor to the Ellington Industry. They remind us that the bandleader who devoted so much of his energy to suites and sacred concerts had one foot in the entertainment industry. The musician who wrote the concert piece *Black Brown and Beige* also turned out the catchy melody of *Satin Doll*.

The presence of *Happy Go Lucky Local* in the opening set summed up the mood. Lifted from the *Deep South Suite*, its shuffle beat hints at the visceral momentum of early rhythm and blues; in later years, it was subtly transformed into *Night Train*, that perennial favourite of both soul brother James Brown and boxer Sonny Liston.

Having heard Wynton Marsalis's Lincoln Centre Orchestra cover much the same ground, it was fascinating to see how well Long's musicians coped with what is presumably a much more slender budget. The piece brought out some of the grandstanding tendencies in the orchestra, dog-whistle notes flying in all directions from a trumpet section which featured the admirable Bruce Adams in full Cat Anderson mode.

Long imposed greater discipline on Billy Strayhorn's melody, *Snicker*, the saxophones supplying the darker textures on cue. Strayhorn's most famous contribution to the songbook, *Take the A Train*, is one of those warhorses that most people would gladly do without, having heard it played so many times down the years. This, however, was a refurbished arrangement, with the extended piano introduction seamlessly moving into a higher gear from a sprightly waltz opening.

The band's vocalist, Patti Revel, overcame the unsympathetic amplification to exchange sultry banter with the rest of the musicians, temporarily transformed into the self-styled Revelltones. Altoist Peter Ripper regularly bobbed into view with elegant approximations of Johnny Hodges, while Ray Gelato, a latter-day Louis Prima, made a guest appearance later, reinforcing the band's populist credentials. The recipe is served up with a flourish on the new live album, *Rockin' in Ronnie's Jazz House*.

CLIVE DAVIS

folkselection

LHMV

TAMALIN
RHYTHM & RHYME
"Newcomers Tamalin apply a different finish to some excellent traditional playing. This lot are on their way..."

IONA - LIVE
HEAVEN'S BRIGHT SUN
Celtic, Atmospheric, Spiritual. Iona's musical statement of individuality and inspiration. Captures a glimpse of Heaven's Bright Sun.

COOKING VINYL SAMPLER
VARIOUS
Includes tracks by Billy Bragg, Pere Ubu, Oysterband, Great Big Sea, Ani DiFranco and Wedding Present.

WOLFSTONE
PICK OF THE LITTER
A new sound based on old traditions. Wolfstone represent a new generation of musicians who take music back to the basics of having fun.

GREAT BIG SEA
UP
From Newfoundland, their infectious good humour lifted a rain-soaked Saturday at the Cambridge Folk Festival. The Times

topdogformusic

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION
NO.83 OF 1994

GREENS LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS TO SUBMIT CLAIMS TO WINE HELD

On 6 July 1997, at a hearing held at the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, a Scheme for the distribution of wine remaining under the control of the Liquidator was approved.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any persons who may have a claim to any of the wine held, and have not yet submitted details of their claim to the Liquidator, are requested to send details IN WRITING of any such claim together with supporting documentation in the form of a sales invoice, storage invoice or confirmation of purchase and/or stockholding to the address below.

If you do not prove your claim by the 31st day of August 1997, you will be excluded from any distribution of wine and/or proceeds of sale of wine under the terms of the above mentioned Scheme.

Dated this 1st day of August 1997

PATRICK MICHAEL BOYDEN for J M Thompson, Liquidator
Cork City, Limerick, Spa Road, Gloucester GL1 1XD

Angie Williamson meets those block-rockin' Chemical Brothers, unlikely rulers of the pop charts

We have the technology

You can take your pick when describing the music of the Chemical Brothers. *The Face* called it "psychedelic hip hop, trance-melt, space-based electro techno rock'n'roll with extra superfly funk". Elsewhere the more succinct "big beats" has become the accepted currency. The title of their most recent chart-topping single, *Block Rockin' Beats*, conveyed the idea equally well, a driving, electronic dance sound with more beats per minute than you can count and decibel levels to make your brains drizzle. Dance acts such as the Chemical Brothers have restored the musical generation gap and resurrected the parental war cry of "that's what goes down". You're only as old as the Chemicals make you feel.

In the past 12 months they have moved from underground cult club DJs to international stars. Together with the Prodigy, they epitomise the triumph of dance culture, a ten-year takeover that began with acid house. This year the Chemicals became the first British dance act to sell a million records with their album *Dig Your Own Hole*. The Prodigy's *Charly* followed, crashing into the American album charts in pole position, and both albums are on the shortlist for the prestigious Mercury Music Prize. At last there's a homegrown sound to rival Britpop, and it came as no surprise when Noel Gallagher lent his voice to the Chemicals' first No 1 single, *Setting Sun*.

But despite their success, Ed Simons and Tom Rowlands, the nose-siblings who make up the Chemical Brothers, remain largely anonymous. We had arranged to meet in their local pub in Notting Hill, and Simons, who looks more likely to sell you a life insurance policy than a block rockin' beat, was already there. I sat at the next table without realising who he was and the introductions were only made with the arrival of Rowlands, unmissable with his Rick Wakeman-style long blond hair. Fortunately there is no rock star attitude about either of them. "We haven't got huge egos," Simons says. "We are what we are, nice middle-class kids."

The early part of the Chemicals' story is hardly the stuff of which rock'n'roll legends are made: they met in 1989 when medieval history students at Manchester University. But before long they were being inspired more by hip hop and acid house than Beowulf and the Bede, and began DJ-ing around Manchester and making their own records.

"We were bored, and so I created a little electronic studio in my bedroom," Rowlands says. "We made *Song to the Siren*, and it was different from anything else around. DJs started playing it at techno clubs and it would wake up the night."

Although they have now made the crossover, the idea that dance is a superior underground culture far removed from the traditional rock industry continues to sustain the Chemicals' world view. "Dance cuts through the machinations of the industry. In pop and rock you have to negotiate with this huge infrastructure," Simons says. "In dance music you give the single to a DJ and he plays it in the clubs. That is all you need. Major labels sign dance acts from hearing a demo, and that just doesn't work. You have to build from the roots: good club DJs are not going to play records sent to them by Sony or Virgin."



"What we play has a greater degree of musical performance than a lot of rock bands," says Ed Simons (left) with fellow Chemical Tom Rowlands

Yet by 1995 the Chemicals had themselves signed to Virgin and their first album *Exit Planet Dust* (a reference to their origins as the Dust Brothers, a name lost in a legal wrangle with a similarly titled American act) sold more than 200,000 copies. *Setting Sun* followed, and the momentum was completed this summer with *Dig Your Own Hole*.

Although the beat is uncompromisingly loud and booming, attentive listening reveals a range of influences which help to explain the breadth of their appeal. "We are into the power of the sound," Simons says, "but it is a shame if people only hear the drums because there is a lot of other complicated stuff there as well."

One element which has made the Chemicals accessible to rock as well as dance audiences is their love affair with 1960s psychedelia, particularly the Beatles' *Tomorrow Never Knows*. vintage. They were people with limited technology really pushing the boundaries," Rowlands says. "We wanted to push on from that, and loud, disorientating acid house music seemed a natural progression. There is a spirit of adventure because

the club audience is receptive. You can do almost anything on the dance floor."

The Chemical Brothers have also

become a hugely popular live act. To

those brought up on guitars and

drums, it can be a disconcerting experience — at Glastonbury Simons and Rowlands were almost invisible behind their banks of electronics.

If every beat is computerised, sequenced, pre-set and pre-tuned, aren't they really nothing more than glorified knob-twiddlers? "In electronic music you have a computer and you write into the sequencer what notes to play," Rowlands says. "So we have the component sounds in our samples, but then we have the desk where we mix the sounds and then we decide what plays when and where."

This still sounds like an ersatz form to me, but Rowlands insists that their performances are heavily improvised. "The last album came out of us

playing live. You get a beat and then you start playing around with it through a drum pad on the sequencer. It is like jamming, and it is so flexible — we don't have to go to the verse here or the chorus there. If we

get something we like and the audience is into it we just go on. It's really exciting."

Simons is also annoyed by those who fail

to understand electronic

music's creativity. "We know when we have done a good gig, but then we read a review which says yes, great sound,

but it's not real music. It is a lot freer and less rigid than a band that rehearses for two

months before going out on the road. What we play has a greater degree of musical performance than a lot of rock bands."

The defence is spirited and eloquent, but surely dance music and its samples remains essentially a parasitic art form? "Parasitic is not an insult," Simons says. "If you came to

our studio the main thing you would see is other music, thousands of records. That is our starting point, using sounds not in a parasitical way, but in a complicated, artistic way, morphing them to our own needs."

We move on to another difficult subject — the central role of drugs in dance music. The very name of the band seems to imply the link, but Simons is matter-of-fact. "The music is not aimed at drugged-up dance floors, but that is one of the surroundings in which it works. This is life-affirming music."

We part as the photographer takes

them off to London's Westway in search of some gritty urban realism for a backdrop. If it seems appropriate, given that the title of the current album was inspired by a piece of graffiti on a wall. "But we've now found a poem by Yoko Ono called *Dig Your Own Hole*," Simons says.

"Do you think we get more credibility if we said it came from there?"

• Elektrobank, the Chemical Brothers' new single, is released on Virgin/Prestyle Dust on August 18. The band plays the V97 Festival in Chelmsford on August 16 and Leeds on August 17

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Don't hit the road Jack, stay home

It may sound like hip heaven, but going on the road with a band is hell

"ON THE road." It's such a sexy, thrilling, who-knows-where-we'll-be-tomorrow phrase, evoking Romany caravans, and Jack Kerouac passing out in the boot of a Ford Mustang, out of his tiny mind on Nature's more interesting shrubs and cacti. You imagine a week of hanging out in

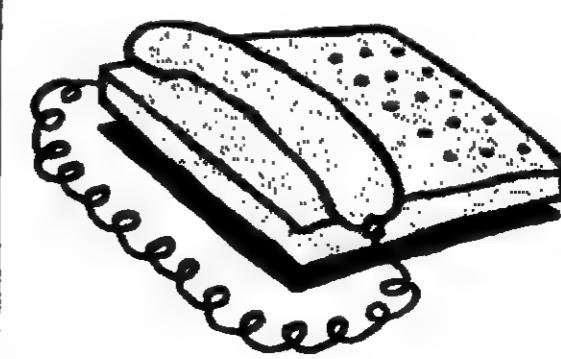
the tour bus, cracking jokes that later get used in lyrics; being regarded as one of the gang by the road crew; and playing a tequila-fuelled tambourine solo in front of 50,000 screaming Mexicans, while the lead singer points at you in a dramatic, this-is-our-guru way. In short, going on the road is a journalist's chance to recreate *Stars In Their Eyes* while impossibly drunk in a country that's pleasantly hot.

Is it like that? Is it bobbies. You fly out, meet a homesick and hungover group of musicians who grill you for three hours on current plot twists in *Brookside* and *Teletubbies*, sit in a breeze-block dressing room while they swap in-jokes with each other, watch the gigs go back to the hotel for an hour-long interview with an exhausted and drunken lead singer, and mooch to bed. If it's an American trip, then the next day is spent trailing around after a press officer who is desperately trying to find (a) a coke dealer or (b) a place that does discounts on Maybelline mascara in

bulk for everyone in the office. Of course, none of this would matter as much if journalists' pride was assuaged by a laminate. Laminate are the gold discs of tour life, only usually issued to road-crew, band members and press officers. Every hack craves to have the Access All Areas necklace, if only because it allows you access to the sealed areas of venues, so you can sit down and have a nice little nap while the band play. So covered are these passes that Jonathan King walks around with every laminate he's ever been issued slung around his neck, like a smug Hawaiian garland.

But instead of this sexy, compact medallion, hacks on trips are issued with a stick-on Guest Pass, which makes you feel like one of those cashiers at Superdrug with "My name is SANDRA, how may I help?" emblazoned on their breast. And it rips the pile off velvet and other tactile fabrics when you try to remove it.

So don't think going on the road with a band is a crazy one-way ticket to rock'n'roll Valhalla. It's just a rock-ruining exercise in boredom, only relieved by an hour of frantic brain-searching, while you try to remember whether Jackie Dixon from *Brookside* is going for that eye operation or not. Jack Kerouac would rather have stayed at home.



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Court of Appeal

Law Report August 1 1997

Court of Appeal

Internal flight alternative

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Robinson
Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Brooke.

Judgment July 11

Where an asylum seeker had a well founded fear of persecution in relation to one area of his home state but no such fear in respect of another area the question whether he should reasonably be expected to relocate to the safe area, the internal flight alternative, bore directly on whether he was properly to be treated as a refugee within the meaning of the Geneva Convention of 1951 (Cmnd 9717) and the Protocol of 1967 (Cmnd 3006) Relating to the Status of Refugees.

Accordingly, the immigration appellate authorities had jurisdiction under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 to consider the internal flight alternative in determining whether an asylum seeker's removal would contravene the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

In seeking an appeal an asylum seeker was required to state his grounds of appeal in his case and the appellate body was not required to engage in a search for new grounds; but where there was a readily discernible and obvious point of Convention law favourable to the asylum seeker, which was not taken on his behalf, the special adjudicator, the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, on an application for leave to appeal, and the High Court, on an application for leave to move for judicial review, should nevertheless apply it.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an application by Mr Anthony [p] Robinson for judicial review of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal's refusal of leave to appeal from the special adjudicator who had dismissed his appeal from the refusal of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to grant him leave to enter the United Kingdom.

On the applicant's appeal under section 8 of the 1993 Act the special adjudicator had found that he had a well founded fear of persecution in the Jaffna region of Sri Lanka from which he originated and that no such fear could be established in respect of Colombo to which he had travelled before fleeing to the United Kingdom where he had claimed asylum.

The applicant sought leave to appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal but did not state in his

grounds that the adjudicator should have considered factors relevant to the reasonableness or otherwise of his returning to Colombo.

Mr Nicholas Blake QC and Mr Raza Hussain for the applicant; Mr David Pannick QC and Mrs Alison Foster for the Home Secretary; Mr Mark Shaw for the Immigration Appeal Tribunal.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE giving the judgment of the court said that the Geneva Convention did not deal expressly with a situation where a person might technically be able to live in part of a country free of fear but for some reason it was not reasonable to expect him to do so.

No international court was charged with the interpretation and implementation of the Convention and therefore the *Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status* published in 1979 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was a particularly helpful guide to what an international understanding of the Convention obligations, as set out in practice.

The 1979 *Handbook* stated that fear of persecution was not always need to extend to the whole territory of the refugee's country of nationality; that recognition of a specific ethnic or national group might occur in only one part and in such a case a person would not be excluded from refugee status merely because he could have sought refuge in another part, if it was not reasonable to expect him to do so.

A similar concept was to be found in paragraph 8 of the Joint Position (March 4, 1996) defined by the Council of the European Union and based on article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union (1996 Cm 363/2) that where persecution appeared to be confined to a specific part of a country's territory the decision-maker should ascertain whether the claimant could not find effective protection in another part of his own country to which he might reasonably be expected to move.

The Joint Position reflected a contemporary understanding of the obligations created by the Convention, which was not confined to member states of the European Union and was based on, the principle that the international protection afforded by the Convention would only come into play when a country could not afford the claimant protection within its own frontiers. See para-

graph 8 of the Joint Position and the test suggested by Justice of Appeal Linden.

On the question whether appellate authorities should consider grounds not raised in the notice of appeal, it was the duty of such authorities to apply their knowledge of Convention jurisprudence to the facts as established by them when determining whether it would be a breach of the Convention to refuse a claimant leave to enter as a refugee.

They were not limited in their consideration by the arguments actually advanced by the claimant or his representatives. If facts of law, Justice of Appeal Linden in *Anandanandarajah v Immigration Appeal Tribunal* ([1996] Imm AR Employment & Immigration 1996) (1996 DLR (Hb) 622) "Would it be unduly harsh to expect [the claimant] ... to move to another less hostile part of the country before seeking refugee status abroad?"

The use of the words "unduly harsh" fairly reflected that what was in issue was whether a claimant could reasonably be expected to move to a particular part of the country.

If the question of the internal flight alternative arose, the answer would directly to the issue whether the claimant should properly be treated as a refugee within the meaning of the Convention, or whether he might legitimately be removed to the part of his home country consistently with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

The jurisdiction of the appellate authorities derived exclusively from section 8 of the 1993 Act. Different divisions of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal had considered that they had no jurisdiction on appeals to consider the internal flight alternative because it did not impinge on the United Kingdom's obligations.

They were wrong so to conclude.

The Court of Appeal in *Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Kithgala* (unreported, July 15, 1996) and *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Sivananthan* (unreported May 21, 1997) assumed without hearing argument that the question could be considered on a section 8 appeal. After hearing full argument in the present case, the court concluded that their assumption was correct.

The secretary of state and the appellate authorities would do well in future to adopt the approach which was set out in paragraph 8 for which the subsection conferred.

However, there was nothing in the words of section 226(1)(a) to impose what would amount to a requirement of precedent fact before the secretary of state might authorise the order.

He referred to the conjunctive phrase "in order to" which he said might have been omitted. Its presence revealing that there had to be a direct connection between the exercise of the power and the object in view.

His Lordship rejected that argument. Of course the secretary of state might only deploy the power to confirm an order for the purpose

of the Joint Position and the test suggested by Justice of Appeal Linden.

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The wasted costs jurisdiction was

Using wasted costs jurisdiction

Wall v Lefever and Another

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Rodger and Lord Justice Cotton.

Judgment July 14

The wasted costs jurisdiction was statutory and summary remedy to be used when a clear picture could be easily drawn indicating that the professional legal advisers had acted improperly within the meaning of section 41 of the Supreme Court Act 1981, as amended by section 41 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1994.

If the judge, who had heard the evidence, saw the witness' representations to make such an order as being justified if some point of principle indicated that his approach had been wholly wrong.

The Court of Appeal so held in *dismissing an appeal by the first defendant, Anthony Lefever, from Judge Dowd's order of Norwich County Court, which required him to pay a wasted costs order against the professional advisers of the plaintiff, Geoffrey Wall, who had been legally aided in his unsuccessful action for damages for the alleged negligent survey of a house and its underlying costs against the first defendant.*

Mr Robert Sherman for Mr Lefever; Mr Giles Kavanaugh and Mr Mark Lomas for the plaintiff's legal representatives at trial.

LORD WOOLF said that the present case raised a question as to the appropriate use of the wasted

costs jurisdiction which was an important remedy available to the courts to ensure that litigation was conducted in the proper manner by the parties' legal representatives.

His Lordship referred to the relevant legislative provisions in *Ridgeway v Horsefield* ([1994] Ch 265, 226) to the tension between two important public interests, to which Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, had drawn attention.

If the judge concluded that it had not, then an appeal was only justified if some point of principle indicated that the judge's approach had been wholly wrong. That was not the present case.

In ordering indemnity costs, his Lordship referred to *Burgess v Stafford Hotel Ltd* ([1990] 1 WLR 512), referred to in *The Supreme Court Practice 1997* (volume 1 paragraph 122/131 p105).

He did not dissent from the view there expressed that where there was a statutory right of appeal the appellants' conduct in appealing could not be said to deserve moral condemnation so as to attract indemnity costs merely because the appeal was hopeless, but that the respondent's proper course was to apply to strike it out or appeal for security of costs.

His Lordship said that great care should be exercised before launching an appeal against the refusal of a wasted costs order by a judge at first instance who had heard the evidence and seen the witness.

The Lordship was salutary as long as it was not allowed to be a vehicle for generating substantial additional costs to the parties, and it should not be used to create

Authorising compulsory purchase order

Chesterfield Properties plc and Another v Secretary of State for the Environment and Others

Before Mr Justice Laws

Judgment July 24

In considering whether to make a compulsory purchase order the Secretary of State for the Environment was not required to consider on the balance of probability whether the purpose for which it was required would be carried out.

Mr Justice Laws so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing the appeals of Chesterfield Properties plc and Kwik Save Group plc against the decision of the secretary of state to order the compulsory purchase of land in Stockton-on-Tees, and other districts, and in respect to the development of the land made by the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides:

"(1) A local authority to whom this section applies shall, on being authorised to do so by the secretary of state, have power to acquire compulsorily any land, in their area which (a) is suitable for and required in order to secure the carrying out of development, re-development or improvement, or (b) is required for a purpose which it is necessary to achieve in the interests of the proper planning of an area in which the land is situated."

Mr Timothy Straker, QC and Mr Robert Lewis for Chesterfield; Mr Anthony Dinkin, QC and Mr Robin Green for Kwik Save; Mr David Holgate, QC, for both secretaries of state; Mr John Steel, QC, and Mr Murray Hunt for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that,

Mr Straker had asserted that, purely as a matter of the true construction of section 226(1)(a), the secretary of state could not lawfully authorise a compulsory purchase order unless he was satisfied that the development to which it related would probably be carried out.

He referred to the conjunctive phrase "in order to" which he said might have been omitted. Its presence revealing that there had to be a direct connection between the exercise of the power and the object in view.

His Lordship rejected that argument. Of course the secretary of state might only deploy the power to confirm an order for the purpose

for which the subsection conferred.

However, there was nothing in the words of section 226(1)(a) to impose what would amount to a requirement of precedent fact before the secretary of state might authorise the order.

Had Parliament intended that the secretary of state's power should only arise if he were satisfied on the balance of probability that the development would be carried out, it would have so provided in clear terms.

Solicitors: Berwin Leighton; Bullivant Jones & Co, Liverpool; Treasury Solicitor: Adleshaw Booth & Co.

European Law Report**Luxembourg****The concept of waste in disposal regulations**

Criminal proceedings against Tombesi and Others joined Cases C-304/94, C-330/94, C-342/94 and C-24/95

The concept of "waste" in Community provisions on the management and disposal of waste was not to be understood as excluding substances and objects which were capable of economic reutilisation.

The Court said, inter alia, that under article 3(1) of Directive 91/689/EEC of December 12, 1991 on hazardous waste (OJ 1991 L377 p20) and article 3(a) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 259/93 of February 1, 1993 on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the European Community (OJ 1993 L50 pl).

The Court held that, inter alia, that the concept of waste in the criminal proceedings in which the accused was charged with causing damage by discharging or incinerating urban and special waste produced by third parties without first obtaining authorisation from the competent region.

The provisions interpreted by the Court were article 1 of Council Directive 75/442/EEC of July 15, 1975 on waste as amended by Council Directive 91/156/EEC of March 18, 1991 (OJ 1991 L78 p32).

National legislation which de-

ferred waste as excluding substances and objects which were capable of economic reutilisation was not compatible with the relevant Community provisions.

The system of supervision and control, including the requirement of authorisation or registration for undertakings which collected, disposed of or recovered waste on a professional basis, was intended to cover all objects and substances discarded by their owners, even if they had a commercial value and were collected a commercial basis for recycling, reclamation or reuse.

The Court held further that a declassification process intended merely to render waste harmless, land filling in hollows and embankments, and waste incineration, constituted disposal or recovery operations falling within the scope of the Community rules, and that the fact that a substance was classified as a reusable residue without its characteristics or purpose being defined was irrelevant in that regard, and the same applied to the grinding of a waste substance.

Article 3(a) of Regulation No 259/93, referring to article 1(a) of Directive 75/442/EEC as amended, laid down a common definition of the concept of waste which was of direct application, even to shipments within any member state.

National legislation which de-

ferred waste as excluding substances and objects which were capable of economic reutilisation was not compatible with the relevant Community provisions.

The essential characteristics of VAT were that it applied generally to transactions relating to goods or services, it was proportional to the price of those goods or services, it was charged at each stage of the production and distribution process. It was imposed on the added value of goods and services, and it was borne by the final consumer.

Article 33 provides: "Without prejudice to other Community provisions, the provisions of this directive shall not prevent a member state from maintaining or introducing taxes on various products and, more generally, any taxes, duties or charges which cannot be characterised as turnover taxes."

The Court said that article 33 enabled member states to maintain or introduce certain indirect taxes such as excise duties on the condition that they could not be characterised as turnover taxes.

Taxes, charges and duties which had the essential characteristics of VAT were always to be considered as such even if they were not identical to VAT in all respects.

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Accordingly, in order to be characterised as a turnover tax within article 33, the tax in question had to be capable of being passed on to the consumer, but on the proper interpretation of the article and in view of its purpose, it was not necessary for the national legislation to have an express provision to that effect.

The holding or issue of an invoice was not required in all circumstances by the directive, and did not constitute an essential characteristic of turnover taxes.

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had the essential characteristics of VAT were always to be considered as such even if they were not identical to VAT in all respects.

It was however, an appropriate remedy where the need was reasonably clearly obvious; it was a summary remedy to be used where a clear picture could be easily drawn indicating that the professional legal advisers had acted improperly within the meaning of section 41 of the Supreme Court Act 1981, as amended by section 41 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1994.

If the judge concluded that it had not, then an appeal was only justified if some point of principle indicated that the judge's approach had been wholly wrong. That was not the present case.

In ordering indemnity costs, his Lordship referred to *Burgess v Stafford Hotel Ltd* ([1990] 1 WLR 512), referred to in *The Supreme Court Practice 1997* (volume 1 paragraph 122/

Summer camps ease holiday hell

Activity trips soothe a ruffled parent's feathers during the school break, says Phil Revell

MANY parents view the school summer holidays with horror, knowing that the phrases "I'm bored" and "Do we have to?" will haunt them for six weeks.

At such times, many parents must look enviously across the Atlantic, where parents pack their children off to camp and get on with their lives.

The Peanuts cartoons have educated us all about the realities of summer camp. Charlie Brown will suffer terrible angst about his inability to form relationships. Lucy will boss everyone around, and Pigpen will avoid all contact with soap and water. But how close is the cartoon to reality?

Sixteen-year-old Max Mogren, from Winona in Minnesota, has been to camp every year since he was three. For the first few years, these camps were family affairs, with parents tagging along until he was old enough to cope on his own. This summer has marked his first break from camp. Instead, he is "homestaying" across Europe with families selected by the People to People organisation. "I really enjoyed camp," he says. "I looked forward to it."

Max's camp included canoe expeditions on the Mississippi. His stay usually lasted a week, sometimes two, which is the first departure from the cartoon truth. Few American families send their kids to camp for the whole school holiday.

Another myth is exploded when we learn that most parents remain at work. Summer camp is not an opportunity for American parents to go on holiday without their children.

Summer camps are an American phenomenon. In Britain commercially run activity holidays for children have only recently achieved any kind of success. One reason for this is that middle-class parents often send their children to boarding school and are therefore keen to re-acquaint themselves with their offspring during the summer break. And for most of this century the Scout and Guide movements have provided camping holidays for children at a fraction of the cost of a commercial holiday.

Now that more women go out to work, childcare has become more important. Parents are also keen to encourage children to develop social skills and become more independent, and camps offer a secure environment for young people to spread their wings. The result has been the slow growth of summer holiday centres

Parents are
keen for
children
to develop
social
skills

catering for unaccompanied children. PGL, based in Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, has been offering water-based activity holidays for 40 years. The founder, Peter Gordon Lawrence, organised his first trip using two canoes and a coal lorry. Since then the company has expanded into the schools market and now offers holidays across Europe. A more recent provider is Superchoice, with centres on the Isle of Wight and at Weymouth, Dorset. Superchoice offers 50 activities at camps which can accommodate up to 600 children at a time.

The 10,000 camps throughout America include many specialist ventures, such as a music camp and even one for dyslexics. British parents have less choice, but there are sailing centres, drama holidays and eco-camps for the environmentally aware.

The Island Cruising Club, in Salcombe, Devon, offers sailing weeks for about £400 all in. Children stay in a converted Merser ferry boat, the *Egremont*.

The cost of such activity holidays is usually about £300-£400 but accommodation is often basic. Few match American camps, where children typically stay in chalets and are supervised 24 hours a day by camp counsellors, who sleep in the same dormitory. Families can pay \$3,000-\$4,000 (£1,900-£2,500) a child for summer camp, a price that reflects the staffing ratios and standards of accommodation.

Many British providers continue to use tents. Not the canvas ones that we remember from Scout camp, but robust plastic boxes. These may be practical but hardly offer the highest standards of comfort. Staffing ratios can also vary widely. Since the Lynne Regis disaster a few years ago, when four teenagers were drowned on a canoe trip, activity providers have radically improved their approach to instruction. But some centres are saving costs by bunching children into groups which are too big.

THE British weather is the main reason why summer camps are unlikely to become as popular here as in the United States. Camps in the Midwest and on the West Coast can rely on long, hot summers. In Britain, camps that look inviting in sunny weather become endurance events when it rains for days on end. But if the alternative is six weeks at home with frustrated children, perhaps the weather isn't so important after all.

Illiteracy and ignorance give the lie to better marks, says examiner Jim Brennan

A familiar assertion will be made later this month, when A-level results are published, that standards have not fallen. Anyone who read the examination scripts I spent the summer marking would dispute that. I graded nearly 350 A-level papers in classical civilisation, from a random distribution of centres throughout England and Wales, half of them independent schools.

These candidates had spent two years on a course that encompassed Roman society in the late Republic (80 BC to AD 14), Cicero's life and works, two other authors (Virgil and Juvenal), Roman Britain and Roman art and architecture. In three hours they were required to write four short essays chosen from 25 topics.

The number of scripts I marked is a reasonably representative sample, compared with the total of about 1,200 candidates.

In a fortnight, the results will emerge. They will be much the same as last year, or possibly better. The work I saw tells a disturbing story. I was able to award a mark above 80 per cent to only one candidate, above 70 per cent to only six, and marks well below 50 per cent to the majority. More than 30 scored below ten, and there were two zeros. But these marks will be scaled up and the true picture will be concealed.

Was I needlessly demanding?

Far from it; I spent a lot of time re-reading papers to find a reason for adding marks. The board for which I mark does not permit penalties for errors in spelling and punctuation. If it did, many candidates would have received a minus mark.

These candidates were in their last year of secondary education. Presumably they chose, or were encouraged to choose, this subject because they were thought to have some interest in, or aptitude for, literature and history. Their average age would be about 18. The majority of them will be saying to universities and, eventually, employers, that they have an A level in classics, which sounds quite impressive. Yet almost all those whose papers I read



Cicero's life and works: part of a two-year A-level course for more than 1,000 students

Sue Fox reports on an annual summer school that is hitting a high note

Through their powerful Music for Everyone programme, The Avison Charitable Trust, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, has established an annual summer school which is unlike any masterclass situation anywhere in the world.

Students, teachers, eminent professional musicians and children come together to experience a musical journey with Benjamin Zander, the English-born conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, professor at the New England Conservatory and visiting professor at the Royal College of Music, in London.

He says: "Education is about moving obstacles. I have a question" is the best possible state of mind for a human being." In Newcastle, there are lots of questions.

The journey with Professor Zander may change lives, but there are no auditions and no fees. "This is not a performance course," he says. "We take the first 35 students who sign up."

Students include a 15-year-old who has been learning the clarinet for 18 months, a primary-school music teacher, a professor of music from Eastern Europe who is living in the North East, the lead violinist of one of the finest chamber groups in Europe, a jazz trumpeter and two singers.

One young soprano is having a difficult time at college because her teachers keep putting her down. The other singer is a professional viola player, with a beautiful mezzo voice who has always wanted to sing.

Gordon Dixon runs the trust and is managing director of the Avison Baroque Ensemble — the first period orchestra in the North.

The trust and ensemble are named after Charles Avison, a distinguished 18th-century English musician who spent his life in Newcastle, establishing the town as one of the most prominent music centres in the country.

The summer school, now in its eighth year, was started by Mr Dixon, whose life was changed ten years ago when he attended one of Professor Zander's masterclasses in London.

"Ben made a promise that anyone who stayed for all 26 hours of classes would make a breakthrough in their music

making," he says. "I stayed, and it did make a huge difference. Later, I worked with Ben in Boston and started taking over some of my musician friends. Eventually, it seemed to make more sense for me to find a way to bring Ben to Newcastle."

Mr Dixon, 38, and viola player Colin Start, 40, who also promote access to music through community projects in schools and for special needs groups in the region, grew up in an education system in which free music lessons and instruments were

and interpretation of information, but some did not. Sadly, a great deal of the information included was wildly inaccurate. I do not mean by an occasional candidate, but by all the candidates from a centre; thus they had all been taught inaccurately and supplied with false data on the topic.

A minor but irritating element must be the handwriting, which I often struggled with. If I could not read it, I could scarcely be expected to award marks.

So what is going on? Are standards falling? Of course, they are, but there are good reasons for it.

Principally, it is a factor of the absurd expansion in post-secondary education of the past 20 years. The population has not increased noticeably, yet more children are staying on after the school-leaving age and attempting A levels, and then going on to still further education.

There is, naturally, less time available in the school timetable for each subject, as other new ones have proliferated. Syllabuses have had to be whittled down. But there is a great difference between whittling and diluting. For instance in neither Latin or Greek at A level is it now obligatory to translate into the language that is diluted. Nor does one read so many set texts; that is whittling.

Having held two headmasterships, as well as in my earlier career run a large classics department and, since retirement, taught in a flourishing department in an independent school, I am in a position to suggest at least some of the causes of what is happening.

For certain, many new graduates are insufficiently taught and, in my subject, have read far less of the literature and know less of the history than I did when I graduated. That is curable; they can get down to repairing the gaps.

The real solution lies with the teachers and the question of how much time they are prepared to give to correcting their pupils' essays. I always found that if I marked meticulously, discussed the mistakes in class and poured scorn and sarcasm on elementary spelling and grammatical blunders, they disappeared. Equally, statements had to be accurate and, if not, had to be corrected and resubmitted; and opinions had to be supported by quoted evidence.

Not only did this result in years of success in examinations, but, more importantly, it was very good training for the day when facts and evaluation were essential in their careers.

A gift from the heart for music lovers



Leading students on a musical journey: Professor Zander

available free of charge. "We come from backgrounds where learning to play an instrument would not have been possible without that help," he says. "Now, funding for music education has been so drastically cut, we have to find a structure for young people to see what music can bring to their lives. When I take musicians into schools, they don't pretend to be teachers. That's not what it's about. They are musicians who discover beautiful ways of encouraging children to think about sound, timbre, images and colour."

Mr Start believes that the dire situation of music in most British schools will lead to a shortage of good music teachers and musicians for orchestras. He and Mr Dixon are clear about the trust's work. Mr Start says: "Some local organisations have moved into 'education' because it attracts funding, but 'education' was our starting point. It is the heart of what we do."

During his time in Newcastle last year, the charismatic Professor Zander, about whom the BBC is filming a major arts documentary, was asked by Mr Dixon to address 16-year-olds at Blakelaw Secondary — one of the named failing schools in the area.

"Afterwards, we gave them tickets for a concert of the Brahms Double Concerto, with the Newcastle Philharmonic which Ben was conducting.

"None of them had ever been to a performance of classical music before, but they had such a good time, they also came to the next series of concerts we did with the ensemble."

When Mr Start takes musicians into schools, he often finds that the biggest troublemaker in a class is left up by the power of music.

Professor Zander says: "When I teach and when I conduct, I talk to the passion in that person. Music is a gift we take with us throughout our lives. It is a gift to give away to the person who is listening. You don't play an instrument with your hands, you play with your heart."

• Avison Charitable Trust Music for Everyone education programme: contact Gordon Dixon, Louise Swann or Colin Start on 0191-225 0709.

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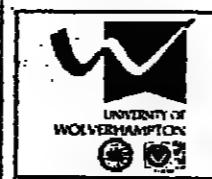
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CRICKET

Adams rises above perils with century before lunch

By JACK BAILEY

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four): Durham won toss; Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 145 runs behind Derbyshire

LIFE at the bottom of the table yesterday was rich in uncertainties. There was a pitch with unpredictable bounce, which made unconfident batsmen predictably tense and apprehensive, yet there was also a remarkable century, before lunch, by Chris Adams, who made light of the conditions.

There was, however, one certainty. After a day which saw 16 wickets fall, the umpires are bound to report the pitch. This makes Adams's innings all the more praiseworthy. For, while others floundered, Adams reigned supreme. He scored his century from 107 balls in just over two hours and his second 50 came from only 33 balls.

Powerful driving brought him many of the 16 fours which, together with a six, provided the major portion of his runs.

As he was bound to do in conditions which so strongly favoured seam bowling, he played and missed several times early on, and he narrowly evaded Lewis at short-leg off a ball from Brown when he had made 18. But he put the bad delivery away with absolute conviction.

It was a conviction which rubbed off on others, notably Vanderveldt and Clarke, but it could not prevent Derbyshire losing their last six wickets in 36 balls for 22 runs.

This collapse put into true perspective Adams's innings and the notable supporting roles played by the gritty Vanderveldt, the free-scoring Clarke and, more briefly, Barnes, whose stand of 82 in 13 overs with Adams began the surge which turned the game Derbyshire's way.

There was little talk about



Law strikes Brimson for six to bring up his fifty during an impressive display at Colchester yesterday

Moles joins worrying injury list

EDGBASTON (first day of four): Warwickshire won toss; Warwickshire have scored 50 for no wicket against Sussex

IRRITATING weather, always marginally too damp or overcast to let the game restart, restricted Warwickshire and Sussex to 16 overs before lunch yesterday (John Thicknesse writes). Unhappily for Andy Moles, the Warwickshire acting captain, that was long enough for him to break the little finger of his left hand, putting him in doubt for the NatWest Trophy semi-final, also against Sussex, on August 13.

The injury was Warwickshire's fifth of the summer, affecting a key player, and since the others include Tim Munton, the captain, and Nick Knight, the vice-captain, neither of whom is said to be close to a return, it was a serious blow to their hopes of a late run in the championship, as well as weakening their prospects in the 60-over cup.

The ball from Vastert Drakes that injured Moles, in the Barbadian's sixth over, was the first that lifted off its length. There was nothing Moles could do to save his finger being trapped against the handle of the bat.

Headley bounces back

WORCESTER (first day of four): Worcestershire won toss; Worcestershire have scored 58 for no wicket against Kent

DEAN HEADLEY began only his second championship match since May yesterday and bowled throughout the hour before the rain (Alan Lee writes). By the time that David Graveney, the England chairman of selectors, arrived to be entertained in the committee room by his uncle Tom, Headley's work was done.

Headley lacked the pace, and bite at Headingley that he had shown on his Test debut three weeks earlier. Recurring fitness complaints continue to undermine him and it was

Law dominates agenda

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

COLCHESTER (first day of four): Essex won toss; Essex have scored 204 for two wickets against Leicestershire

STUART LAW continues to give Essex magnificent service and show how remarkable are Australia's cricketing resources. The Queensland captain made a superb century yesterday after Leicestershire took two early wickets, ending a rain-affected day on 124 not out and sharing an undefeated stand of 195 with Nasser Hussain for the third wicket.

Hussain did not play yesterday. By the end of a day that lost 45 overs to rain, he was 52 not out, having survived the new ball when Prichard and Robson fell to Mutually and Millns. However, Law, who rarely gives the bowlers a glimpse of his true ability, set about them from the start and was blossoming when the rain, which had set in after two overs, returned in the last session.

How on earth Australia can

do without him is a mystery to people in Essex—and beyond. He is not just a fairly good batsman. He has proved himself to be a fine cricketer in every respect and he gives far more to the side than his scores can suggest. Perhaps he has upset somebody.

Law has been accused of being a "flash Harry" who does not translate his talent into really big scores, but Essex are not complaining.

This was his third championship hundred of the season, his fifth in all and his seventh in England since he replaced Mark Waugh as Essex's overseas player last year.

Last season, he made a century in each of the four competitions, but, crucially, missed the NatWest Trophy final defeat by Lancashire when the weather delayed his return from Sri Lanka, where he was recovering from a hernia operation. No play was possible before moon. Partly because of the poor weather at Headingley this summer, the club's attendance—figures might well prove to be the worst in their history.

The only bating of note came when Parker and White were adding 40. Both were out to balls that were almost impossible to play. The former was bowled by one from Bowes, that scuttled on and the latter was leg-before to a ball from Mohammad Akram that cut back and kept low.

Gough came in to considerable acclaim from the Western Terrace and struck a couple of lusty blows before edging one from Bowes that swang away. Silverwood followed, in this mood, makes even the best players look ordinary.

Advantage swings away from Yorkshire

By IVO TENNANT

HEADLEY (first day of four): Yorkshire won toss; Yorkshire have scored 165 for nine wickets against Northamptonshire

CHOOSEING a pitch at Headingley remains a contentious issue. Yorkshire opted yesterday not to play in the middle of the square, which was originally chosen for the fourth Test last week, but on a surface with uneven bounce that gave Northamptonshire's bowlers considerable help. The ball also swung, extravagantly at times.

There was little for any batsman to savour. Even a notable technician would have done well to stay in for long. Paul Taylor, the left-arm, took five for 42 — how, last week, Mike Smith would have liked to have swung the ball as he did — and three other medium-pace bowlers also took wickets. A total of 53 overs were lost through rain and bad light.

Taylor, who last played for England three years ago, never looked to bowl above medium pace. He took four wickets in his opening spell, beating Syas and Lehmann with late swing, having Vaughan leg-side offering no shot, and yorking McGrath. Any runs were scored either through luck or aggressive intent.

Yorkshire were without Moon, who has a back injury, and Hartley, who goes into hospital soon for a hernia operation. No play was possible before moon. Partly because of the poor weather at Headingley this summer, the club's attendance—figures might well prove to be the worst in their history.

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Britannic Assurance county championship

DURHAM v DERBYSHIRE (first day of four): Durham won toss; Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 145 runs behind Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE: Five Innings

1. R May vs Wood

2. J Adams vs Wood

3. K Barnett vs Wright

4. J Lewis vs Wood

5. V.P. Cade vs Wood

6. M. Kolzen vs Bunting vs

7. P. DeFreitas vs Bunting

8. A. D. Farthing vs Bunting

9. A. D. Farthing vs Bunting

10. I. Dean vs Bunting

11. D. E. Malcolm vs Bunting

12. Total (541) overall

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-237, 2-119, 4-172, 5-222, 6-238, 7-239, 8-254

BOWLING: Broad 201-1, 204-2, 206-3, 208-4, 210-5, 212-6, 214-7, 216-8, 218-9, 220-10, 222-11, 224-12, 226-13, 228-14, 230-15, 232-16, 234-17, 236-18, 238-19, 240-20, 242-21, 244-22, 246-23, 248-24, 250-25, 252-26, 254-27, 256-28, 258-29, 260-30, 262-31, 264-32, 266-33, 268-34, 270-35, 272-36, 274-37, 276-38, 278-39, 280-40, 282-41, 284-42, 286-43, 288-44, 290-45, 292-46, 294-47, 296-48, 298-49, 300-50, 302-51, 304-52, 306-53, 308-54, 310-55, 312-56, 314-57, 316-58, 318-59, 320-60, 322-61, 324-62, 326-63, 328-64, 330-65, 332-66, 334-67, 336-68, 338-69, 340-70, 342-71, 344-72, 346-73, 348-74, 350-75, 352-76, 354-77, 356-78, 358-79, 360-80, 362-81, 364-82, 366-83, 368-84, 370-85, 372-86, 374-87, 376-88, 378-89, 380-90, 382-91, 384-92, 386-93, 388-94, 390-95, 392-96, 394-97, 396-98, 398-99, 400-100, 402-101, 404-102, 406-103, 408-104, 410-105, 412-106, 414-107, 416-108, 418-109, 420-110, 422-111, 424-112, 426-113, 428-114, 430-115, 432-116, 434-117, 436-118, 438-119, 440-120, 442-121, 444-122, 446-123, 448-124, 450-125, 452-126, 454-127, 456-128, 458-129, 460-130, 462-131, 464-132, 466-133, 468-134, 470-135, 472-136, 474-137, 476-138, 478-139, 480-140, 482-141, 484-142, 486-143, 488-144, 490-145, 492-146, 494-147, 496-148, 498-149, 500-150, 502-151, 504-152, 506-153, 508-154, 510-155, 512-156, 514-157, 516-158, 518-159, 520-160, 522-161, 524-162, 526-163, 528-164, 530-165, 532-166, 534-167, 536-168, 538-169, 540-170, 542-171, 544-172, 546-173, 548-174, 550-175, 552-176, 554-177, 556-178, 558-179, 560-180, 562-181, 564-182, 566-183, 568-184, 570-185, 572-186, 574-187, 576-188, 578-189, 580-190, 582-191, 584-192, 586-193, 588-194, 590-195, 592-196, 594-197, 596-198, 598-199, 600-200, 602-201, 604-202, 606-203, 608-204, 610-205, 612-206, 614-207, 616-208, 618-209, 620-210, 622-211, 624-212, 626-213, 628-214, 630-215, 632-216, 634-217, 636-218, 638-219, 640-220, 642-221, 644-222, 646-223, 648-224, 650-225, 652-226, 654-227, 656-228, 658-229, 660-230, 662-231, 664-232, 666-233, 668-234, 670-235, 672-236, 674-237, 676-238, 678-239, 680-240, 682-241, 684-242, 686-243, 688-244, 690-245, 692-246, 694-247, 696-248, 698-249, 700-250, 702-251, 704-252, 706-253, 708-254, 710-255, 712-256, 714-257, 716-258, 718-259, 720-260, 722-261, 724-262, 726-263, 728-264, 730-265, 732-266, 734-267, 736-268, 738-269, 740-270, 742-271, 744-272, 746-273, 748-274, 750-275, 752-276, 754-277, 756-278, 758-279, 760-280, 762-281, 764-282, 766-283, 768-284, 770-285, 772-286, 774-287, 776-288, 778-289, 780-290, 782-291, 784-292, 786-293, 788-294, 790-295, 792-296, 794-297, 796-298, 798-299, 800-300, 802-301, 804-302, 806-303, 808-304, 810-305, 812-306, 814-307, 816-308, 818-309, 820-310, 822-311, 824-312, 826-313, 828-314, 830-315, 832-316, 834-317, 836-318, 838-319, 840-320, 842-321, 844-322, 846-323, 848-324, 850-325, 852-326, 854-327, 856-328, 858-329, 860-330, 862-331, 864-332, 866-333, 868-334, 870-335, 872-336, 874-337, 876-338, 878-339, 880-340, 882-341, 884-342, 886-343, 888-344, 890-345, 892-346, 894-347, 896-348, 898-349, 900-350, 902-351, 904-352, 906-353, 908-354, 910-355, 912-356, 914-357, 916-358, 918-359, 920-360, 922-361, 924-362, 926-363, 928-364, 930-365, 932-366, 934-367, 936-368, 938-369, 940-370, 942-371, 944-372, 946-373, 948-374, 950-375, 952-376, 954-377, 956-378, 958-379, 960-380, 962-381, 964-382, 966-383, 968-384, 970-385, 972-386, 974-387, 976-388, 978-389, 980-390, 982-391, 984-392, 986-393, 988-394, 990-395, 992-396, 994-397, 996-398, 998-399, 1000-400, 1002-401, 1004-402, 1006-403, 1008-404, 1010-405, 1012-406, 1014-407, 1016-408, 1018-409, 1020-410, 1022-411, 1024-412, 1026-413, 1028-414, 1030-415, 1032-416, 1034-417, 1

GOLF

Rocca refreshed by reacquaintance with Cup of cheer

FROM MEL WEBB IN MALMO

THERE is little doubt that the outstanding personality in European golf at present is not a human being but a 10-year-old hunk of metal. It is on everybody's lips, this venerable lump of silverware. It is causing players and those associated with them to jump through hoops in search of a taste of its mystic charm. The star of the show is the Ryder Cup and it is doing all sorts of things to all sorts of people.

Of the 12 positions in the Europe team, five are accounted for — Messrs Montgomerie, Clarke, Woosnam, Westwood and Langer are safe. They are beyond threat. They can baffle easily, for a few weeks at least. However, although it is very unlikely that one or two of the remaining seven can realistically be eliminated, several places have still to be won and lost.

The situation is still highly volatile; it is a time to be optimistic, but not hopeful. The players try to mask their concern with bold words and laughter, but their badge has no more substance than the make-up on a pantomime dame.

The main business of the Volvo Scandinavian Masters, which started at Barshack near here yesterday, is ostensibly

to find a winner of the £125,000 first prize. The rather more hidden agenda is how some of the players in the nearer regions of the Cup qualifying list fare relative to each other.

José María Olazábal, for example, is tenth, a mere 3,000 points and points sterling ahead of Padraig Harrington, but a delay of 3½ hours because of heavy rain, thunder and lightning early on meant that he had not started before Harrington got his retaliation in first with a 66, six under par.

The strapping Dubliner was on the outer fringes of contention until he tied for fifth place

and won £62,500 in the Open Championship. Now he has a genuine chance — "I'm within shooting distance and I've got to give it a go," he said. The go he gave it had bells on.

He intends to play in all three European tournaments between now and the close of the qualification period at the end of this month and, on the strength of his Open performance, his managers have inquired about an invitation to play in the US PGA Championship, also a Cup qualifier.

Three times a Walker Cup player as an amateur, Harrington, 25, is not short of matchplay experience. Forget his self-deprecating claim that he had forgotten all about playing for holes and not strokes, he remembers, all right. He had six birdies and only 27 putts, including a monster of 50 feet at the 17th. One or two complained gently about the soft Barshack greens. Harrington was not one of them.

Nor was Costantino Rocca, who celebrated a return to fitness with a 65 to take the lead on seven under par. Rocca, out of sorts, out of form and sliding down the chart like an out-of-vogue pop singer, first had a shoulder injury, then hurt his ribs at the Irish Open at the beginning of last month when he tried to hack his way out of some vegetation. "The rough was stronger than I was," he said, smiling his wide, sad, Piaggio smile.

He has removed an elastic bandage from his ribs only this week, and, able to swing freely again, produced his best score of a modest season — he is 55th on the money-list with barely £70,000. He had seven birdies, including five in his first nine holes.

Rocca has played in two Ryder Cups, in the first he was a nervous new boy, in the second one of Europe's leading players. At 40 he wants a third appearance so badly it almost hurts, for he will not get too many more chances. "It would be good for me and good for Italy," he said. It would also be good, one presumes, for Europe.

Dyson strides into the quarter-finals

SIMON DYSON beat Matt Carver, the international, 6 and 5 in the English Amateur Championship at Royal Liverpool yesterday.

Dyson, 19, from Leeds, the nephew of Terry Dyson, the former Tottenham Hotspur winger, won six holes in a row to go five up and when he hit his wedge to six inches at the short 13th, booked his place in the quarter-finals today.

Dyson, now plays another seed, Matthew Bristow, who sailed through two rounds, 4 and 2 against Robert Wilson and 6 and 5 over Robert Duck. In high wind and driving rain, experience was a big factor, and Stephen East,

17, struck a blow for the amateurs by edging out Francis McGuirk, from Kent, by one hole while Roger Roper, 35, went straight 3 and 2 against Jamie Little, 20.

Roger Beames, of Wick, the last remaining seed in the J&B Scottish Amateur Championship, bowed out 2 and 1 in the fourth round to Graham Fox, the Sostini youth international, at a bright, and breezy Carnoustie.

Vestya Taylor, the title-holder, bowed out of the Welsh Amateur Championship, 4½, Pyle and Kenfig Portcawl when she slipped to a 2 and 1 loss by Chris Rees, the 1989 champion.

Marshall's plan working

FROM PATRICK CLEAVES IN BARRETTVILLE, ONTARIO

KATHRYN MARSHALL, the combative Solheim Cup player from Monifieth, battled a migraine to set the early standard with a score of 56, five under par, in the first round of the Canadian Classic, the last major championship of the women's season, at the Glen Abbey club here yesterday.

Marshall, 30, only has one victory to her name as a professional, but loves the big occasion. The Scot was sharing the lead with Colleen Walker, of the United States, and they were a stroke ahead of two Americans, Tamara Green and Dana Dohmann, and Jan Stephenson, the veteran Australian.

On a sunny day, with a breeze that gusted enough to make club selection tricky, especially at the many holes bordered by water, Marshall began steadily. Starting at the 10th, she had three pars, before picking up birdies at

the 13th and 14th, two holes that were to do Green a lot of damage. Marshall followed with a birdie four at the 16th and although she was then sharing second place, there was no sign of her name on the leaderboard at the 18th.

She missed a chance of another birdie four there, chipping too far after two good shots into prime position, and did well to save her par-five at the next, another birdie chance. Marshall hit her second shot into trees by the green, pitched into a bunker and got up and down. She celebrated the reprieve with birdies at the 4th and 5th.

Green, who won this title in 1989, is enjoying a purple patch. She won the Eagle Creek Classic in front of her own folk in Ohio last Sunday, beating Laura Davies at the fifth extra hole, and carried on in the same vein over the border in Canada. Out in 32, four-and-a-half par, Green birdied

RUGBY LEAGUE

Currie stands by his prediction

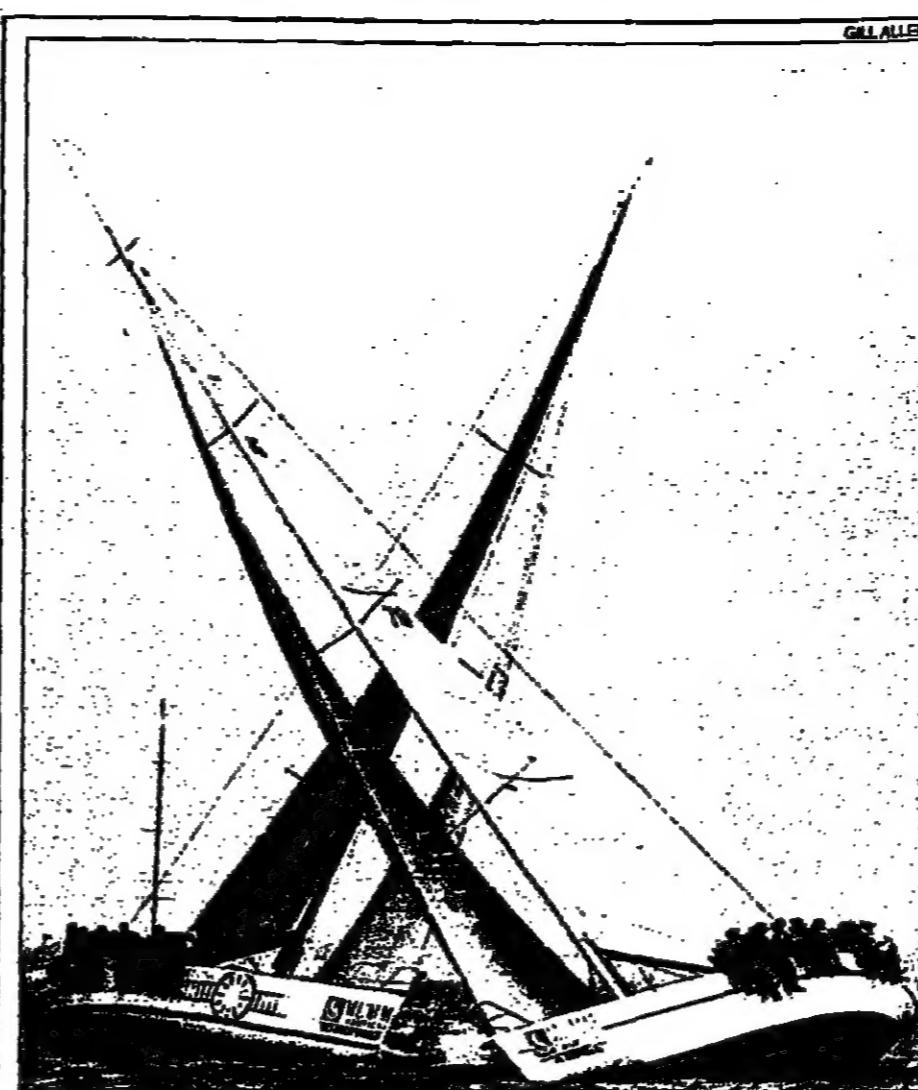
IT IS unusual for Tony Currie — nicknamed "Mr Grumpy" on occasion — to smile in defeat. (Christopher Irvine writes.) After London Broncos lost 34-18 to Canterbury Bulldogs in the world club championship, the Broncos coach wore a Cheshire Cat grin and

predicted that the result would be reversed in the home leg. Despite the defeat in Sydney, the Broncos mustered enough collective resolve to justify Currie's claim, which will be tested tonight at the Stoop Memorial Ground, where no opponents can feel

safe after the loss there by Canterbury. Raiders, even though Brisbane Broncos bucked the trend last Sunday. We played well at Canterbury, sufficiently well to say what I did," Currie said. "We have home advantage, we won't have Bill Harrigan refereeing, we are playing well and, good as Canterbury are, they aren't as good as they once were."

Currie appeared in a Sydney grand final with Canterbury as a young centre and broke into the Australia side during a three-year spell there.

Victory against Canterbury would put the Broncos at the top of Europe pool A. Were Wigan then to be beaten by Canterbury on Sunday, the Broncos would have home advantage through to the semi-finals.



Corum Indulgence, of Britain, left, in a close manoeuvre in the Solent

British skipper's error costs him almost certain victory

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MERRICKS, the skipper of the British Admirals Cup team Mummu 36, *Bradamante*, could only reflect yesterday on what might have been, after he threw away a certain win in race two of the championship on the Solent, by going round the wrong mark of the course

Britain, sailing as tactician. They also went round the wrong way in last place, having sailed over their spinaker earlier in the race but, realising their mistake, they went back and corrected themselves. This gave the Italians potentially two wins for the day.

Like the other Mummu 36s, there was a sinking feeling among *Bradamante* as Merricks brought her into the dock.

In the big boat class, Graham Walker's Corel 45, *Corum Indulgence*, driven by Chris Law, showed more of the fine form of last weekend. Law again started well and finished the day with two second places. He again showed he can beat the bigger and massively more developed one-offs in the class on handicap.

In the first race Law was fifth on the water at the finish, but a full 3min 18sec

ahead of last-placed *Investor*.

The big boat fleet saw the most dramatic incident of the day when the Italians in *Madina Milano* rounded the second windward mark and cracked off on a short reach, only to lose control completely when the cable to their rudder snapped. The boat circled back to the mark as Syd Fisher's *Ragamuffin* was rounding and there was an initial collision at right angles, before *Madina* slewed right into the Australian boat and her boom swept the Australian deck. Nobody was injured.

In the ILC 40 fleet, Tony Buckingham's *Easy Oars* steered by Andy Beadsworth, had a poor first race when she clipped a mark while in fifth place. She finished last after taking a penalty. In the second race, *Easy Oars* managed fifth, but a full 3min 18sec

behind the winning *Investor*.

The two players would then be banned for 14 days from when the report arrives at Lancaster Gate, although even that is not a foregone conclusion. The Danish FA has not sent on the report on the sending off of Mark Wright, the Liverpool defender, against Brondby nearly two weeks ago, leaving Wright clear to play in the opening games of the season.

"Sometimes reports are not forwarded to us, it all depends on the policy of national associations," Steve Double,

FOOTBALL

Palace sign Lombardo after rethink

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

CRYSTAL Palace completed the signing of Attilio Lombardo from Juventus yesterday after a dramatic change of heart by the Italian midfield player. Lombardo had called off talks with Palace last week after the club failed to meet his wage demands, but almost as soon as he indicated that he had undergone a change of heart, the £2 million transfer was completed, according to Juventino officials.

Before completing the deal,

Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, said yesterday that there was a misunderstanding over net and gross pay.

"The Italians have been back to us,

wanting to bend a little our way," he said. "I believe we are close to an agreement."

Very close, as it turns out,

with Palace agreeing that

Lombardo, 31, will earn

£500,000 a year in the course

of a three-year contract.

For their money, Palace are getting

an Italy international with

an impressive pedigree

after six years at Sampdoria

and two with Juventus, al-

though his spell in Turin was hampered by a series of injuries.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, will make a determined effort to spare two of his players from suspensions after they were sent off in a pre-season match on Tuesday evening.

Patrick Vieira and Manue-

Upson were dismissed by Jan

Wegerief, the Dutch referee,

in the final minutes of the 1-0

defeat by PSV Eindhoven.

The official confirmed yesterday that he will report the dismissals to the Dutch FA, which will then forward the report to the Football Association.

The two players would then

be banned for 14 days from

when the report arrives at

Lancaster Gate, although even

that is not a foregone conclu-

sion. The Danish FA has not

sent on the report on the

sending off of Mark Wright,

the Liverpool defender,

against Brondby nearly two

weeks ago, leaving Wright

clear to play in the opening

games of the season.

"Sometimes reports are not

forwarded to us, it all depends

on the policy of national

associations," Steve Double,

the former West Ham defen-

der, and manager of Southend.

Morte also made a reckless

challenge in the same incident

involving Igor Demet.

However, study of television re-

plays showed that Upson caught

the back of Demo's

ankle from behind.

West Ham United and

Southend United have an-

nounced that they are to forge

a "special relationship" simi-

lar to the link between Liver-

pool and Crewe Alexandra.

The move follows the appoint-

ment of Alvin Martin, the

former West Ham defen-

der, as manager of Southend.

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: king of hearts

Diagram for position

after Black's 8th move

5 N

6 C

7 H

8 S

9 D

10 F

11 G

12 H

13 I

14 J

15 K

16 L

17 M

18 N

19 O

20 P

21 Q

22 R

23 S

24 T

25 U

Betrayal of the true sporting spirit

The so-called guardians of international athletics, who voted yesterday, on the eve of the world championships in Athens, to soften the resolve of sport against the abuse of drugs, have betrayed two generations.

First and foremost, there is the coming generation of competitors, those children coming into the care of athletics, for whom the message is abhorrently plain: cheat if you can, take illegal substances where you will, and the worst that the godfathers of your sport have in store for you is a couple of seasons in the sin bin.

At the other extreme, there is the betrayal of Sir Arthur Gold, now an elderly gentleman, but at one time an administrator with more courage and more sense of propriety than many of today's rulers put together.

In his time in charge of British athletics, Sir Arthur took enormous pains, and accepted torrents of derision, for his insistence that even if Britain had to go it alone, those responsible for the good of the sport and its future had

to declare this country — unilaterally, if necessary — utterly and totally against doping.

Sir Arthur won his persuasive argument in this country at least. It is a small relief to note that when the acquisitiveness came yesterday, Britain, as well as Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Norway and some Caribbean countries swelled the vote against ameliorating the punishment for drug abuse.

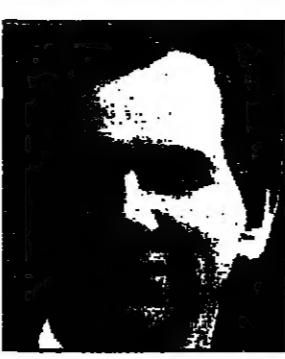
Still they lost; swayed by Dr Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), whose leadership took, as usual, the form of expediency over decency, 112 members

voted in favour of halving the four-year ban for drug-takers. Fifty-six voted against, three

willing to see it as something more than a sham.

It gets tougher with every passing year. Even Ben Johnson, found guilty of drug abuse at the Seoul Olympics nine years ago, is contemplating court action to win back his place on the track. That was the excuse for a reduction put forward by some who voted yesterday. They claim that because civil courts in Germany have adjudged that

ROB HUGHES



Chief Sports Writer

a four-year ban on someone whose body has been proven conclusively to be riddled with substances that enable him to cheat constitutes a restraint of trade.

I use the word excuse because those gentlemen of the committee could just as easily acknowledge that, also in Germany, there are broken athletes, men and women who were the children of the corrupt East German sporting regime, who are preparing court cases against the doctors and coaches who administered the drugs to them.

For if there are corrupts at work, it is the duty of others, those — like Nebiolo — seen fit to govern their sport, to oppose them, to say "no".

It is not only Sir Arthur Gold who is being cheated. It is not merely that drugs are the cheat's substance. It is that these pills, these injections, and these stimulants, given by corrupt chemists who know the repercussions, actually damage the human body, not enhance it. It is high time we found men and women of courage — starting with all the clean athletes — to stand against the warping of the meaning of sport.

David Powell on a Briton timing his run towards sprint glory

Chambers keen to avoid false start

Britain's latest sprint sensation entered a different world here in Athens on Wednesday evening from the one he had left behind on Monday. "I was like a king out there," Dwain Chambers said with reference to Ljubljana and how the Slovenians had responded to witnessing his piece of athletics history. Now he was having to sample life as a courtier.

Within a week of becoming the fastest teenager of all time, winning the 100 metres at the European junior championships, Chambers flew in to join the Great Britain squad for the senior world championships. His world junior record of 10.06sec places a substantial burden on 19-year-old shoulders.

Chambers offers a bemused look when he listens to a random list of names of athletes who were slower at his age: Carl Lewis, Linford Christie, Donovan Bailey and — dare one say? — Ben Johnson. Already he is faster than Allan Wells, the 1980 Olympic champion, and every other Briton who has run the distance, except Christie.

A Londoner born of Jamaican parents, Chambers did not make the team here for the 100 metres, only for the relay. The frustration that he felt when the team was announced, a week before he went to Ljubljana, has given way to a reluctant admission that it is probably for the best. This is education time. "I have only ever seen the Donovans Baileys and Michael Johnsons on television."

should run under ten. I may not run that time again for the next two or three years."

Ian Mackie, who has succeeded Christie as British champion and whose best is 10.17sec, drew attention to Chambers enjoying in Ljubljana the benefit of the maximum legal tail wind. "I would have loved those conditions myself," Mackie said. "The first thing I thought was 9.9."

Implicit in Mackie's comment was that he would still expect to beat Chambers and, with maximum legal wind assistance, break ten seconds.

"He is very talented, very strong, and I think he will do extremely well," Mackie added. "But people are going to be looking at him to run 10.1 consistently. There is that kind of pressure on him."

Chambers is 5ft

1in and 13st and Malcolm Arnold, Britain's performance director, described him as "physically precocious". He had, Arnold said, "thrown a hand grenade in among our sprinters". Makes a change from throwing tantrums and spikes, which he did at the world junior championships last year. Expecting a medal, he finished fifth.

"I think my spikes might have hit somebody," Chambers recalled. "The team management tried to talk to me, but I ignored them. That was the turning-point in my career." It was not that he lost, but that he eased up. There must be no more easing up if Chambers is to make the impression as a senior that he has as a junior.

those emotions again, for the worse if they sadden him during the difficult transition from junior to senior ranks. All too often, promising young British athletes have failed to leap the chasm, unable to take the unusual feeling of defeat.

The first step towards a successful transition is for the athlete to recognise that he needs to go through the humbling process. Chambers, though still exuberant about his Ljubljana experience, was keen to impress that he was taking nothing for granted.

"People are going to expect big things from me, but I am going to take it year by year," Chambers said. "I do not want to put pressure on myself by saying that, just because I have run 10.06, next year I

'All too often, promising young athletes fail to leap the chasm'



Chambers will mix with the world's finest in Athens

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

MOHOHOHO

(a) The white rhinoceros, *Ceratotherium simus*, found in central Africa and Zululand. The Seswana word for the magnificent NOOK.

(b) Literally a nut, but in cookery that part of the fillet of veal to which the fat or adder is attached. The French for a nut: "noix de veau" is the topside (rump), the fleshy upper part of the leg, cut lengthwise."

LEVADA

(a) In Madeira, a canal for irrigation. The Portuguese word. "Levadas are narrow canals cut out of the solid rock of volcanic basalt of which the island consists: watercourses of masonry, which intersect Madeira like a network, for the purposes of irrigation."

HAPTINE

(a) In P. Earlich's theory of immunisation, a receptor detached from the parent-cell, circulating freely in the bloodstream, and acting as a protection against infection by combining with the foreign substance which would produce it. From the Greek *haptin* to fasten.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

... Nac3 2 Reb3 Qd3 3 Rb6+ Qd6 4 Qxd6 checkmate

EQUESTRIANISM

King in pursuit of triple triumph

MARY KING, who last year became the first rider to fill the leading two places in the British Horse Trials Championships, has a chance to go one better at the event when she competes with three ornate horses (Jenny MacArthur writes). The championships, sponsored by Doubleprint and organised by Captain Mark Phillips, begin today at Gatcombe Park.

In contrast to last year, when there was a depleted field because of the proximity to the Olympic Games, there is a bumper entry, with 245 contenders divided among the

four classes — two advanced sections, the British intermediate championships and the British Open.

Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, with his Olympic champion, Ready Teddy, heads the foreign entry, which also includes two former winners of the Open: Mark Todd, a dual Olympic champion, with Stunming and Word for Word, and David O'Connor, the United States, the winner of Badminton this year, who rides Lightfoot.

However, King, seeking a fourth win, is the rider they all have to beat. She rides King William and King Solomon — who were first and second last year — and Star Appeal, her Badminton runner-up and a leading contender for the team for the European championships next month.

King Solomon and King William won at Saumur and Chantilly this year. All three horses underlined their form with double clear rounds at Cornbury last week. King, 36, has an added incentive. Her win in June at Chantilly — Gatcombe's twin event in France — will bring her a £2,000 bonus should she succeed at Gatcombe.

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Rescue scenarios and the swimsuit question

Time was clearly running out. Up to his neck in local opposition and exhausted by the effort of trying to stay democratically afloat, the victim now faced a new threat — an insatiable tide of dark oppression that would sweep away everything before it. Time, I thought, might be reassuringly plunk-plunk of the 999 theme and some sensible advice from Michael Buerk: "If you ever find yourself governor of Hong Kong, try not to panic."

"Alas not. When help did finally arrive it was in the shape of the Prince of Wales, the Royal Yacht Britannia and Jonathan Dimbleby. The first two were there to make sure that Chris Patten made it physically out of Hong Kong. Dimbleby was there to ensure that his reputation escaped with him. The last Governor (BBC1) had reached the final chapter.

Dimbleby's pained predicament is quickly becoming clear, with

the "through train of democracy" that we have heard so much about in recent weeks, there was barely a mention. Nor was there an update of what had happened since the handover. Instead, we had some fairly half-baked constitutional stuff, a well-intentioned chat about human rights and an entertaining if shameful row about passports.

The latter not only allowed Patten to claim one of the few victories of his governorship but also to put one over on Michael Howard, who had popped in just

to remind us why the Conservatives lost the election and for Patten to all-but-label him a racist.

As Howard, in his capacity as former Home Secretary, wriggled, our man in Hong Kong glowed:

"I've designed that he's changed his mind." Shows what a broad-minded chap he is.

Eventually, however, it was all over. Patten's bottom lip trembled,

he signed a few last bits of legislation and that was it: dum-government. The lovely Lavender helped him pack and his three pretty daughters packed up to steal the next day's front pages. The band played on ... but then they always do on such occasions.

A little earlier, a slightly re-modelled but still recognisably version of the plink-plink theme tune, meant it really was time for 999, or rather its summer stable-mate, 999 International (BBC1). This turned out to be an excuse for Michael Buerk to fly around the world and film expensive-looking links and for Juliet Morris to try out a new swimming costume.

Now, it's only a few years since the cosmic question was the toughest obstacle a female newscaster faced as she sought to divorce her career. Did you do cosmic shots — or not? Angela Rippon high-kicked

Ocean are forever lapping around a shapely Dando thigh as she delivers a piece to camera.

Where Dando leads, Morris is never far behind, which is why she seems to have spent most of the summer in a swimsuit, was last night skirmishing across the Gulf of Rorquals in a blue halter-neck and will no doubt return to present a new series of *The House Detectives* in something small, yellow and polka-dot.

In Belize she looked pretty but rather hot. But nothing like as hot as the actor playing the marine biologist who had just swum for six hours across shark-infested waters after his speedboat sank. His sunburn was going to need an awful lot of calamine lotion.

Perhaps it was the distances involved, but the emergencies didn't quite have the impact of the home-grown variety. Then there was the different attitude of those who had been rescued. Rather

than showing the groveling gratitude to the emergency services that we are accustomed to, most of last night's survivors placed their faith in a higher authority. The Belize water-taxi owner promptly changed his salvaged boat's name from *Can't Touch This* to *By the Grace of God*, while the Swiss paraglider ranted on about the "inner voice" that kept her calm as she dangled from a tower crane.

Who loaned him half the money to buy the place and now wants it back because she's been left by her husband. With the finesse that Tilly's husband left her for a man and that Bob, of course, hasn't any money, that is the situation.

As for the comedy, it was fine without being mould-breaking and nothing like as funny as a hyped-up studio audience seemed to find it. Are lines such as "in France we eat our snails, we do not give them driving licences" really worth a round of applause? However, there were moments worth a chuckle and the supporting cast, while plucked straight from the back catalogue of comic stereotype (pretty waitress, lugubrious policeman, dim youth, etc) seemed promising. For a moment, I thought Didier, the French lorry-driver, represented a genuine spark of originality ... but then I remembered *'Allô, Allô* and the moment passed.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

but did not do cosies. The Moes Ford and Scott did neither — I'd definitely have remembered. But then came Jill Dando, who after a couple of seasons of doing imaginative things with a strong, clearly arrived at the decision that careers are too short — especially when there are unprincipled, thigh-flashing weather girls around. These days the waters of the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Indian

oceans are the different attitude of those who had been rescued. Rather

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BBC1

6.00am Breakfast Breakfast (55159)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (52586)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5555694)
9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (5557204)
9.30 Esther (T) (5555694)
10.20 The Roadshow Collection (T) (5552178)

10.45 Carol Cooper's Cooking with Confidence Strawberries, jam and summer pudding (552246)

11.00 News (T) (5555694)
11.05 Das South (T) (5455694)

11.50 Good Neighbours (515377)

12.00 News (T) regional news and weather (493897)

12.05 Wipeout (T) (5180401)

12.35 Neighbours (T) (512271)

1.00 News (T) and weather (2243)

1.30 Regional News (5555694)

1.40 Columbus: Sins Song an evil smuggler with a penchant for murder. With Peter Falk, John Goodman and Edie Falco (T) (4451352)

3.10 Guilty Three mysterious deaths are traced to a football stadium, where a major championship is due to take place in 5-months of days (T) (5130423)

4.00 Pop Eye (2491975) 4.10 To You, To You (7236587) 4.35 K'N' New York. An automated highway and a speed enthusiast determined to be the first amateur to put his own rocket into orbit (5836456) 5.00 Round the World (T) (200507)

5.10 Record Breakers (T) (5334130)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (5178377)

6.00 News (T) and weather (2242)

6.30 Regional News (2243)

7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady...Cook Coronation Street, Jan Meron and Gaynor Faye (Gerry and Judy Maledict provide the mystery ingredients for Alastair Harcourt and Paul Rankin to transform into sumptuous meals in a mere 20 minutes (T) (5094)

7.30 Top of the Pops (T) (28)

8.00 Only Fools and Horses Del seizes a rare opportunity to make a quick profit (T) (7027289)

8.50 Get Fit with British Bumblin' Britain meets Nicholas Parsons (T) (5345468)

9.00 News (T) and weather (2791)

9.30 Tom Clancy's Op-Center with Henry Martin and Rod Steiger. The first of two-part Cold War drama. The head of a doomed military team sets out to prove its worth by embarking on a near-impossible mission to find three nuclear weapons stolen by a Russian agent (T) (215538)

11.25 Without a Clue (1989) Farciel Sharlock Holmes comedy, starring Michael Caine, Ben Kingsley, Lynette Anthony and Peter Cook. Directed by Thom Eberhardt (767420)

1.10am The Rescuers. House of Horrors (1989) with Frankie Avalon. A group of teenagers agree to spend the night in a supposedly haunted house ... but the prank goes wrong when one of them meets an untimely end. Directed by Michael Armstrong (1364227)

2.40 Weather (7015444)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder from the front of the room. To record a programme, dial its Video PlusCode for the television you wish to record. VideoPlus+ and VideoProgramme+ are trademarks of Gemstar Development Labs.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Beforever (129451) 6.25 Regions Apart (1748517)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) and signing (5557971)

7.30 Teleshopping (4080513) 7.55 Postman (1903178)

8.00 Cartoon Critic (5062264) 8.30 Sports (7407171) 9.35 Spin Rides (5541246) 10.05 Peter Pan and the Pirates (5515171) 10.25 Mr. Benn (5427710) 10.45 Teletubbies (7407171)

11.15 Harry and the Hendersons (4977535)

11.40 Moon Over Miami (T) (7591022)

12.30pm Working Lunch (4437) 1.00 A to Z of Food (5653313) 1.10 Beechgrove Garden (T) (5093482) 1.40 Menus and Music (5653313)

1.55 Glorious Goodwood Julian Wilson and Clare Baker introduce live coverage of the fourth day, featuring the 2.15, 2.45, 3.20 and 3.50 races (7308246)

2.00 Nuts! (T) and weather (249265)

2.45 Going for a Song (T) (7434081)

3.00 Carters (1980) with Glenn Ford and Marlene Dietrich (5552140)

3.30 BBC Proms 97 live from Albert Hall, marking the anniversaries of both Brahms and Schubert, featuring choral works by Johannes Brahms, Schubert, and French Gaetan Deshayes. Tributes to the performance of Chopin's virtuoso second piano concerto. Studio broadcast with David Dimbleby (55571420)

3.30 Subsequent programmes are subject to late running and change

3.00 Bottom Riddle and Eddie face a lengthy spell behind bars for tapping into their neighbour's gas supply (T) (7343)

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3.30 Surprise! Surprise! David Essex serenades Jim (T) (51401)

3.30 Tarras on TV (T) (28333)

4.00 The Bill Daily and Caren and new boy Proctor (Gregory Donaldson) are keen to interview the attractive sales assistant in a burgled antique shop (T) (2710)

4.30 Surprise! Surprise! David Essex serenades Jim (T) (51401)

4.30 Late and Live News (T) and weather (12284)

4.30 The West Tonight Update (52371)

4.40 Late and Live News series of the interactive chat show. Tonight's guests are Neil and Christine Hamilton. Music is provided by K-Pass (5469282)

5.00 Coronation Street (T) (51550)

5.30 News (56173)

6.00 Jeremy Clarkson guests (10.00pm)

10.00 Room 101 in the first of a new series, Jeremy Clarkson talks to Nick Hancock about his pet hate: Big Shops (T) (509170)

10.30 The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover (T) (5122710)

11.00 The Next Generation (T) (51172)

12.00 Late Show with David Letterman (560242) 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (560242) 12.00 The Big Picture (560242)

1.00 Weather (7015444)

1.30 The Next Generation (T) (51172)

2.00 Weather (7015444)

2.30 Video Nation Shorts (560401)

3.00 News (T) and weather (2791)

3.30 Weather (560401)

4.00 Weather (560401)

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**CRICKET 36**

Essex lay down law
as rain frustrates
championship rivals

SPORT

FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997

GOLF 37

Rocca swift to
get back into
swing after injury

BAF warns of more drug abuse

Christie leads condemnation of shorter bans

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATHENS

LINFORD CHRISTIE may not be here at the world championships to run but he moved swiftly yesterday to support the British Athletic Federation (BAF) in its condemnation of a decision to reduce drug bans, for first offences, from four years to two. Christie and the Federation warned that the change would precipitate an increase in the number of athletes taking drugs.

The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) announced the reduction in penalties yesterday, saying that longer bans would be too expensive to fight in a climate of increasing recourse to the courts. It said that, in some countries, four-year bans on athletes who take drugs were unenforceable and that it would be unfair to continue to operate a two-tier punishment system where competitors received suspensions of varying lengths for similar offences.

Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, said that the world governing body had been forced into this position because "the lawyers are un-

fortunately, very expensive". The BAF, however, wants no relaxing of the regulations, despite facing a damages claim of close to £1 million from Diane Modahl which threatens to bankrupt it.

Modahl is suing after a drugs test in 1994, which resulted in her suspension, was shown to be unreliable. The IAAF has given no financial support to the BAF which was following IAAF procedures. Undeterred, Britain evidently believes that the price is too high to pay for protecting the health of the sport.

'It is high time that we found men and women of courage to stand against the warping of the meaning of sport'

Rob Hughes, page 38

It is now up to the BAF to decide whether it wishes unilaterally to retain the four-year suspension, but it is improbable that British athletes will be singled out for harsher punishments.

Christie, however, appeared to oppose that. "Someone has to take the stand and I think we should," he said. "The majority of our athletes are drug-free and we should be able to prove it to the rest of the world."

Alan Warner, the BAF vice-chairman, voiced vigorous opposition to the IAAF congress before the decision was taken: "With the package of rules we currently have, and increased out-of-competition and no-notice testing, many of our old abuses seem to be under control," Warner said. "In some events the decline in performances is easily and well documented. The current combination of measures seems to strike an effective balance."

As a deterrent, the rules give a clear message. Reduce this deterrent and there will undoubtedly be many more athletes who will take that chance because two years is not that long. This is not the time to signal to the world that we have lessened our resolve."

Nebiolo, not unreasonably, claimed that athletics had a more thorough testing programme than any other leading sport. However, it took a backward step last March when it reinstated two German athletes after they had served two years because their national law had ruled that a four-year ban was unreasonable. The same would apply, the IAAF said, to athletes from at least eight countries, including France, Russia and Spain.

"Some national courts do not support the four-year ban but they are very few," Warner contested. "Around 95 per cent of all IAAF nations have no such problems. Once again we



Dettori smiles as he mounts Classic Cliche before the big race yesterday. His backers were less happy afterwards. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

Frankie's poor form bucks the system

Lynne Truss finds that Goodwood can be far from glorious if your method of picking a winner leaves you out of pocket



IT'S a well-known fact that Kipling's *If* is written up somewhere prominent at Wimbledon. The reason they don't need it at race meetings is that, as far as punters are concerned, they are well acquainted with *tum-ti, tum-ti triumph and disaster* and treat those two imposters just the same.

On Wednesday nobody was the least bit sympathetic that I had lost twenty quid on well-picked dull runners, not even when I pointed out that for twenty quid you could buy enough baked beans to feed a family for a year. Twenty quid evidently means nothing to these blokes. Show them the equivalent in 140 cans and they just look at you.

Nebiolo, not unreasonably, claimed that athletics had a more thorough testing programme than any other leading sport. However, it took a backward step last March when it reinstated two German athletes after they had served two years because their national law had ruled that a four-year ban was unreasonable. The same would apply, the IAAF said, to athletes from at least eight countries, including France, Russia and Spain.

"Some national courts do not support the four-year ban but they are very few," Warner contested. "Around 95 per cent of all IAAF nations have no such problems. Once again we

that, since Frankie Dettori is the only jockey I've heard of (and he was riding all day), my choice was, happily, no choice at all. Packing a foldable rucksack (to transport my winnings) I set out for the bookies with certain confidence. Frankie's horses sounded like excellent mounts, in any case — Noisette in the 2.15; Bodysguard in the 2.45; Classic Cliche, the favourite, in the 3.20. I liked the sound of Bodysguard, in particular — he was described as a "useful" colt, a school-report adjective

colour was intriguingly described as "bay or brown"; when you would think someone would know the difference. But ho hum, all split milk now. Noisette, running with six months' supply of my personal baked beans, puled awkwardly on her nose, came ninth out of ten, and the only consolation was that her owner, Sheikh Mohammed, probably cared even more than I did, which served him right for being such a souseup.

Come on, Frankie! You can do it! You did it loads of times once, didn't you? Hoping to encourage him personally, I raced to the parade ring to see him mount Bodysguard, got odds of 9-2 and then retired to an excellent vantage point to watch Frankie burn up the turf. He was now in a very beautiful all-green shirt and cap, which looked bucky. Yet curiously enough the winner of this race was Diggers Drawn, ridden by Kieren Fallon. "Fallon?" I said, the name ringing a bell from the racing on Wednesday. What a swine. Fallon always loses, surely? isn't he known for it? And so it went on. I'm afraid, with me sticking to my system like a fool. The biggest

race of the afternoon was the Crown Goodwood Cup, in which Dettori, now in a very fetching blue, rode Classic Cliche, "one of the top stayers in Europe" — which sounds like one of those guests who won't leave, but is, in fact, a horse that can run two miles without getting puffed out, clutching the rail and then falling over. But it was not Frankie's day, somehow. A cunning plan to surprise the others and overtake them on the home stretch (a classic cliché in itself) went wrong at the last minute and, in a sensational finish, Dettori came second behind Double Trigger.

Now, I don't blame Frankie for any of this. Everyone says he's a lovely bloke. In the flesh, he's very short, of course; but don't forget people also say that about the Queen and Tom Conti. All I would mention here is that race days are a bit tough for the jockeys because, very noticeably, they never get a break for a cup of tea, and in

fact, barely have time between races for the necessary ironing.

What sterling fellows they are, in the circumstances. After not winning the Goodwood Cup, Dettori dismounted without his trademark circus trick, but otherwise looked completely unscathed. And considering his welcoming committee was the rather scary retinue of Sheikh Mohammed — got up like the cast of *Reservoir Dogs* — this was a real tribute to him.

My final flog was on the 3.50 Schweppes Golden Mile, a handicap in which Dettori's horse was "Star Talent", described as "not the most reliable of performers". Hmnn.

The way I see it, you lose some, you lose some. One door closes and another shuts. I went for the ten-quid bet again, and Frankie came twelfth. When you've got a system, you see, you stick with it, all the way. Otherwise you'd be leaving everything to chance, which would never, never do.

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